

# THE TIMES

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4M

Skippers defy Spanish 'thuggery'

## Fish war MP urges Navy to send frigate

BY JAMES LANDALE AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

ANGRY Cornish fishermen and the local Tory MP last night called for a Royal Navy frigate to be sent to the Bay of Biscay as trawlermen prepared to resume tuna-fishing, despite the possibility of further Spanish attacks.

David Harris, the Conservative MP for St Ives, said the fishermen were "not willing to be driven off by the Spanish", who were engaging in "thuggery on the high seas".

He was pressing for a frigate to be sent to the area. "It is vital that the Government demonstrate its determination to back our fishermen," he said.

The MP said the Spanish were blatantly trying to drive away Cornish fishermen from grounds they had every right to fish. The trawlermen were very angry and there was "a real danger that they will retaliate against the Spanish".

The Agriculture Ministry has sent a second Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel to the Bay of Biscay to back up the HMS Anglesy, which is on patrol, but turned down the request for a frigate.

The *Charisma*, the Cornish trawler from Padstow accused of using illegal fishing gear, arrived at 4.15pm yesterday in Devonport harbour in Plymouth under naval escort. Once the boat had docked at 5.15pm, half a dozen officials and three policemen took the crew away for questioning, which was continuing late last night.

The vessel's nets were measured by ministry inspectors in an off-limits area of the dockyard. The ministry had wanted the nets to be examined in secret, but officials eventually let representatives of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation watch.

A ministry statement said: "Investigations continue into the length of the nets and the circumstances surrounding the *Charisma's* detention and bringing home. A full report will be made to Maff [the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food] headquarters and considered in liaison with the ministry's legal advisers."

Trawlermen were still seething yesterday that the Royal Navy had boarded the *Charisma* and impounded her nets before forcing the boat to head for Devonport instead of Newlyn, near Penzance, where Barrie Ball, the skipper, wanted to land his catch.



Harris: the Government must back trawlermen

because they are punctuated by gaps of up to 100m wide, which have been designed to let dolphins escape. The owner of the *Charisma* accused the Agriculture Ministry of using the boat as a scapegoat to divert attention from the Spanish attacks on British fishing boats last week.

"For some reason my boat has been picked on to take the limelight off what the Spanish did," Mr Ball said. "You would think we had 10 tonnes of cocaine on board."

He said a boarding party from HMS *Alderney* had smashed their way into the wheelhouse of the *Charisma*. "They ordered [my son] to alter course and said that if he did not they would put a shot across his bows."

The Agriculture Ministry confirmed last night that crew members from HMS *Alderney* had been ordered to make a "forced entry" on to the *Charisma* on Saturday after her skipper had refused to allow them to board.

Speaking in a radio interview, the skipper of the *Charisma* said: "They [the *Alderney* crew] asked me whether I was going to change course for Devonport. I said, 'No, we are sticking to Newlyn'. Then a hit squad proceeded to come through a mahogany wheelhouse door with a 14lb sledgehammer and crowbars."

The *Silver Harvester*, the first fishing boat to be attacked, sailed out of Newlyn last night after a meeting of the fishing ports senior boat owners and skippers.

Mike Townsend, chief executive of the producers' organisation, said: "It is amazing thing to think that we have a position where the French navy is out there protecting its vessels while the Royal Navy has baged one of ours."

The *Charisma* is accused of having used nets longer than the maximum of 2.5km (about 1.5 miles) allowed under European Union legislation. The skipper's father and owner of the boat, who is also called Barrie, insisted that they had done nothing illegal. "There's 2.5km of nets on that boat, and no more," he said.

Cornish fishermen say their nets appear longer than 2.5km



Thomas Mansell with his mother Susan. His parents died when their car was hit head on by the joyriders

## Joyriders leave boy of 4 an orphan

BY JENNY KNIGHT

RELATIVES of a four-year-old boy were at his hospital bedside last night, waiting to break the news that his parents had been killed in a crash with a stolen car thought to have been racing another.

Lawrence Mansell, 36, and his wife Susan, 37, from Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, died when a Vauxhall Cavalier crashed head-on into their Ford Fiesta.

Thomas Mansell, who suffered arm injuries and bruising, was strapped into the back of the car. Police said yesterday that Thomas, who was the Mansells' only child and was born after they had fertility treatment, was "comfortable" in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.



Lawrence Mansell: doted on only child

The accident happened on the A48 in Bridgend when the Cavalier, which had been stolen from a pub car park at Ogmore-by-Sea, crossed a double white line. Two men aged 25 and 19 were under police guard in the same hospital with "serious but not life-threatening" injuries.

Police believe the Cavalier was racing another car and that one man in the Cavalier, who was also injured, may have escaped in the second vehicle.

Detective Chief Inspector Alan Hood said detectives were waiting to interview two men from the Blaengwynf area of Mid Glamorgan. He said: "We are left with a grieving family and an orphaned child. It is always the innocent who are killed and

left seriously injured in this situation. How can stealing a car be worth any of this? This young boy will suffer for the rest of his life."

Mr Hood said police wanted to trace a third car, believed to be a white or beige Ford Fiesta, seen travelling closely behind the stolen car and containing two young men.

"We believe it is possible a third injured occupant in the Cavalier left the accident scene in this vehicle. It is vital we find him."

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## Tories call for big tax cuts to beat Blair

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Conservatives are demanding a dramatic package of tax cuts in the run-up to the next election to counter the threat posed by a resurgent Labour Party.

They want Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to redouble his efforts to achieve a basic rate of income tax of 20p, and they want a big increase in the £23,700 threshold for top-rate tax to reverse a trend that has put much of Middle England in the supertax bracket.

John Major is understood to be among those urging Mr Clarke to cut taxes amid signs that the Chancellor — not seen as an instinctive tax-cutter — is prepared to sanction a far-reaching, if secret, rethink of long-term tax policy.

Ministers have been stung into action by mounting evidence that Tony Blair is determined to ditch Labour's image as the party of high taxation. The Labour leader has told Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, to carry out a radical review of tax policies to outflank the Conservatives.

Options under consideration include lowering the basic rate to 15p by scrapping non-personal tax allowances, including relief on mortgages and pension contributions.

Ministerial circles are buzzing with rumours that Mr Blair has decided that his party will never again fight an election on the threat of higher taxes. According to one Tory "intelligence report", he has reportedly said in private: "I am not going to put up taxes. We have lost the last four elections because of higher taxes."

The reports, which chime with Mr Blair's more guarded public comments, are being taken seriously by ministers, who fear that he is planning to

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### Boy stole on holiday cure

A boy aged 14 who was taken to a holiday village as part of therapy to "cure" him of burglary, broke into nine chalets in two days and stole valuables worth £3,000 from holidaymakers. He took cash, cameras, a camcorder, portable radios and jewellery before being caught.

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### England lead, but Test set for draw

South Africa's tail took their team to within 30 runs of England's 477-9 yesterday but the second Test looks set for a draw. Graham Thorpe, 51 not out, and Graeme Hick put England 174 ahead with a day to play.

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## UN to hold peacekeeping summit

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

JOHN Major and other leaders of the 15 nations on the UN Security Council are to hold a special summit meeting in January to deal with the growing crisis in United Nations peacekeeping, from Bosnia to Rwanda.

Diplomats said the UN was overstretched and was approaching the point where it could no longer carry or pay for the growing peacekeeping burden. The summit — only the second of its kind ever held — could lead to a rewriting of the UN's mandate for peacekeeping.

The UN Secretary-General's far-reaching blueprint for the future of peacekeeping, written after the last summit meeting, in 1992, in that report, Boutros Boutros Ghali put the case for a much more assertive UN role in "peace enforcement" as

well as traditional peacekeeping at the end of the Cold War.

The death of scores of "blue helmets" in Somalia, the retreat of a ship carrying peacekeepers to Haiti, the harassment of UN troops in the Balkans and the organisation's inability to field a force in Rwanda have cast a pall over UN military operations. Dr Boutros Ghali has already said that UN troops should pull out of Bosnia whether or not peace is achieved.

The new meeting is intended as a follow-up to the unprecedented meeting organised by Britain in January 1992, which established new guidelines for UN peacekeeping at the end of the Cold War. This time, heads of state and government from Britain, France, Russia, the United States and other council members will emphasise the limits of UN action.

In a clear vote of no-confidence in UN peacekeeping, two Security Council permanent members, France and the United States, have kept their troops in Rwanda outside UN command, though the small UN force there is desperate for men and equipment.

A senior UN official said Dr Boutros Ghali was "highly disillusioned" with the commitment of UN members to peacekeeping.

The UN chief has stated bluntly that the UN is not equipped to send troops quickly to Rwanda or to organise a force to oust Haiti's military rulers. He has said that the organisation could not even field a force to implement a peace settlement in Bosnia.

UN members owe the organisation more than \$2.5 billion (£1.63 billion) for peacekeeping operations.

### British troops hurt in Bosnia

Two British soldiers were wounded in eastern Bosnia yesterday when their four-wheel drive vehicle hit a landmine near the Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

The soldiers were not seriously wounded by shrapnel but were taken to hospital in

Tuzla, about 60 miles north of Sarajevo. Major Dacre Hollaway of the United Nations Protection Force said in the Bosnian capital. Their names were being withheld while relatives were informed.

Karadzic feud, page 9

### Lady Helen gives birth to a son

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

LADY Helen Taylor, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Kent and a cousin to the Queen, has given birth to a healthy boy, the family announced last night. The child was born on Saturday evening at the Portland Hospital for Women and Children in Great Portland Street, central London.

Lady Helen, 30, formerly Lady Helen Windsor, married Tim Taylor, an art dealer, in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in July 1992.

The family said that mother and baby were both well and the couple were delighted. The baby's weight and time of birth are expected to be announced today.

## Top athlete 'took banned drug in Chinese potion'

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN HELSINKI

SOLOMON Wariso, Britain's most improved athlete this year, yesterday confessed to a drugs offence that has ruled him out of the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games here and the Commonwealth Games in two weeks' time. After a positive first sample, he admitted, before the result of the second test was known, that he had taken a banned substance.

Wariso, 27, the Amateur Athletic Association 200m champion, took two pills containing ephedrine, a stimulant that carries a three-month suspension. He said he did not know that the

"Up Your Gas" pills contained the substance and the British Athletic Federation (BAF) has accepted his word.

At a press conference yesterday he showed the container in which he had been given six pills by two fellow athletes, including "one of my closest friends", in Florida. "I took two, I lost one, and I have got three back at home," he said.

Why the label on the pills did not sound alarm bells is difficult to fathom, especially as Wariso, 27, a freelance journalist with a degree in biotechnology, was said by Professor Peter Radford, BAF executive chairman, to be knowledgeable and sophisticated.

It read: "Here is the most potent pill of its kind on the market. It is called Up

Your Gas and, if you think that name is outrageous, wait until you feel the kick it delivers. No kidding! This zany new herbal formula is the wildest and craziest product around..." After more of the same, it adds that it is "safe and natural".

Wariso said he checked the ingredients and "most of these things were not on the banned substance list". The offending ingredient, said to be Ma Huang, a Chinese potion, escaped his notice.

According to Malcolm Brown, the Great Britain team doctor, the amount of ephedrine in Wariso's sample was very small and extremely unlikely to have had any performance-enhancing effect.

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Wariso at yesterday's press conference

### RWANDA CRISIS

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## Prince of memory says victory was on the cards

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FREELANCE radio presenter known as the "Crown Prince of Memory" yesterday clinched the world title after memorising the order of a shuffled pack of cards in a record 58.79 seconds.

Jonathan Hancock, 22, from Middlesbrough, became the 1994 World Memory Champion when he piped the defending champion at the post at the end of a two-day contest in London.

It was sweet revenge for Mr Hancock, who had come second to Dominic O'Brien, a professional memory champion, in the world championships for the past two years.

Mr O'Brien, 36, from Buntingford, Hertfordshire, was well in the lead at the end of the first day's competition, having set two world records: one by recalling the first 142 digits of a spoken 300-digit number, the other by memorising 494 playing cards from shuffled packs.

It looked as though Mr Hancock was destined to remain crown prince as Mr O'Brien continued to hold his lead among the 12 finalists well into the second day.



Jonathan Hancock, already World Student Memory Champion, won the big title yesterday on his third attempt

However, Mr O'Brien surprised the field when he crashed in the second last event where contestants faced an imaginary trip around the world in 80 days. Mr Hancock won the event in which contestants had to memorise flight numbers, countries, car hire details, hotels, cities and changes in time zones.

But the card event for which Mr O'Brien, who can memorise the order of 35 packs of cards shuffled together,

held the world title saw Mr Hancock, the World Student Memory Champion, beating him at his own game.

Mr Hancock, a freelance presenter with BBC Radio Oxford, has just graduated from Oxford with a first in English, a pass he admits he had not contemplated achieving until he decided to apply his memory system to his studies.

He said: "I did not expect to win as I had not had much

time for preparation." Mr Hancock, who entered his first world memory contest in 1991, is already committed to writing a book about memory which is due out in July. He expects his new title to boost sales and open many new doors of opportunity.

Mr Hancock trains his memory on a daily basis by trying to remember names and telephone numbers without writing them down. However, a highly honed memory

might fail such practical tests, if the experiences of the former champion are anything to go by.

Mr O'Brien confessed he was once so busy memorising six packs of cards that he forgot to pick up a friend from the airport, until he received an irate call.

He said: "I proceeded to Gatwick while mentally thumbing through 312 cards. He was, in fact, waiting impatiently at Heathrow."



O'Brien: memory lapse cost him the world title

## Railtrack in new plea to signalmen as union meets

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the RMT union will meet today to decide whether to hold new talks with Railtrack on a solution to the nine-week signal dispute.

The union believes greater flexibility over the consolidation of restructuring payments, which was hinted at by the Railtrack chairman Bob Horton last week, could open the way to a settlement.

There are signs that both sides in the dispute believe that including half of a proposed supplement in basic pay could secure immediate pay rises of 4.7 per cent for signalmen, almost enough to bridge the gap between union and employer. But a deal is unlikely to be completed in time to avert the strike planned for Friday.

Mr Horton will today personally write to all 4,600 signal staff renewing his offer to "sit down and throw away the key until we get agreement on a restructuring package". He is urging the union to

ballot its members again if necessary to gain authority for a deal that will improve staff flexibility.

Railtrack was encouraged to press for another ballot after signalling supervisors last week rejected a call to join the strike by a 3-2 margin and signs that public support for the action was waning.

The letter asks members to telephone the union's headquarters to urge their leaders to call off the stoppages scheduled for this Friday and next Monday and Tuesday — strikes that will disrupt services for seven consecutive days — and to hold another ballot.

The letter says: "There are grounds to go forward. Every signaller should talk to listen. We have made a commitment to negotiate until we reach a settlement. Will the union do the same? Ask them."

Railtrack is also seeking to

reassure staff that it intends to reach a negotiated agreement as soon as possible and has no plans to dismiss the strikers and hire a new workforce.

A spokeswoman said: "We need to get a deal in place by October 1 in order to protect the £50 million we have set aside for pensions."

The company denied yesterday a report that it was recruiting an extra 200 signalmen to bolster its strike-breaking force of managers and supervisors.

RMT officials were said to fear that a recruitment drive could form the basis of a non-unionised workforce if Railtrack decided to sack strikers and offered to re-employ them on individual contracts.

Railtrack said: "Any suggestion that we are recruiting to break the strike is nonsense. We are recruiting in some zones for existing vacancies, although the number is nothing like as high as has been claimed."

## Tories urge Clarke to cut tax

Continued from page 1

neutralise their most potent electoral card.

One minister said yesterday: "Some Conservatives may have been stung by the arrival of Tony Blair. But others of us have been tax-cutters well before he came on the scene. Some of us have accepted the last lot of Budgets on the basis that they are a temporary aberration to deal with the recession and that, as the economy recovers, we will soon be back on a proper Tory tax-cutting agenda."

Mr Clarke is desperately

seeking to lower hopes of significant tax cuts this autumn, but he is expected to aim for big cuts in his 1995 and 1996 Budgets. This year he wants a broadly tax-neutral Budget, which will channel any spare cash from spending cuts and buoyant tax revenues into reducing the deficit and strengthening the credibility of his economic policy.

But with the Government wallowing in the polls, such a slow start could bring him into conflict with the Prime Minister and rightwingers who want a pre-emptive strike

against Mr Blair. Ministers maintain that the Treasury projections for spending and tax revenues next year contain plenty of "headroom" for cutting the deficit and beginning to reverse tax increases of the last two Budgets.

They believe the Treasury has deliberately over-estimated spending on social security benefits and been unduly cautious about tax revenues to give the Chancellor something up his sleeve this autumn.

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Leading article, page 15

## Duke in hot water over Adam fireplaces

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE Duke of Northumberland has been accused of removing a pair of antique fireplaces from one of his family's stately homes without planning permission.

The fireplaces, worth about £200,000, were taken from Kirkcubbin at Fochabres, Grampian, to be re-installed at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland. They now form a part of the Duke's large collection of fireplaces designed by the Scottish architect Robert Adam in London in the 1790s.

Kirkcubbin is the home of the Duke's cousin, Algonzo Percy. The fireplaces were put in his home in 1947 and the house was listed in 1971. Although they were taken legally, their removal broke planning regulations.

Their disappearance was discovered when Northumberland Estates applied for retrospective planning permission from Moray District Council. Permission was refused and an appeal dismissed.

The council has issued an enforcement notice for their immediate return, but a further appeal by Northumberland Estates means a final decision will have to be made by Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary.

A Fochabres councillor, Tom Howe, 60, said: "He had no right to take them away. He has raped our heritage and cannot be allowed to get away with it because of who he is."

The Duke's agent, Rory Wilson, said: "The matter is going through the appeal process at the moment. I think it would be better to say nothing until we have heard the decision of the Scottish Office."

## Ashdown rejects Lib Dem calls to work with Blair

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair would be a prisoner of the Labour Left if he won the next election, Paddy Ashdown said yesterday as he rejected demands from senior Liberal Democrats for closer links between the two parties.

Amid growing fears in Liberal Democrat ranks that the new Labour leader is stealing much of their centre-ground support, Mr Ashdown reassured his party's distinctive qualities by portraying Mr Blair as a frontman for left-wing extremists.

Mr Ashdown gave no sign

its parliamentary body (and they are much larger as a representation throughout the whole of the Labour Party) which is probably larger than any majority they are likely to get, if indeed they get a majority, who are biding their time for the present."

Three members of the "Gang of Four" — the former senior members of the Labour Party who in 1981 set up the Social Democratic Party — have called for co-operation between the Liberal Democrats and Labour.

The three, Baroness Williams of Crosby, Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, now all Liberal Democrats, have also expressed about Mr Blair as a future prime minister.

Opinion poll ratings for Mr Ashdown and his party have fallen since Mr Blair took over the Labour leadership and the Liberal Democrat leader's broadside yesterday was an attempt to stop the rot.

Mr Ashdown denied that the advent of Mr Blair had put paid to the Liberal Democrats' hopes of replacing Labour as the main centre-left party.

"Britain wants a third party and liberal democracy is a very powerful strain in our politics," he added, pointing to the 1,000 additional council seats the party had gained in the past two years.

Mr Blair was a "personable and talented" figure but his stance on key policies was as yet unknown.

On Lady Williams's call for the Liberal Democrats to work with Labour on a "common programme", Mr Ashdown would go no further than saying he believed in politicians working together on issues of common interest.

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Ashdown: reassured claim to the centre

of wanting to alter his positioning of his party midway between Labour and the Tories.

"The Labour Party are not a bunch of choir boys... The Labour Party remains stuck to the trade unions, paid by the trade unions with a skin-deep commitment to the free-market-based economy, with an equivocal position on Europe, and particularly monetary union..." the Liberal Democrat leader said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*.

"The Labour Party has a group of left-wing MPs within

## Caitlin may rest uneasily under Milk Wood

By JOE JOSEPH

*The village immortalised by Dylan Thomas shares with Joe Joseph memories of the poet's widow, on the eve of her burial there*

town has. It was in Brown's that Caitlin and Dylan did much of the hell-raising that bemused, bewitched or both-tired fellow residents of the tranquil hamlet of 1,600 people.

And it will be in Brown's that mourners will gather for sandwiches and sausage rolls, and maybe a drink, on Wednesday after Caitlin's body is shoe-horned into the plot in St Martin's graveyard where Dylan Thomas has lain since 1953. Giuseppe Fazio, the Sicilian with whom Caitlin shared the last half of her life in Catania, is too ill to come, but Francesco, their son, is flying over.

In St Martin's graveyard, Sian Evans, a retired schoolteacher, is taking her turn to do the chapel flowers. "They led such an awful life. So bohemian. He was always tight. She was just as bad."

Did she recall, since characters in *Under Milk Wood* were culled from life, who was Polly Garter, the good-time girl? "Maybe Dylan's wife. She got around."

Caitlin Thomas worked hard for this reputation. On her marriage night she suggested a threesome with Dylan's chum Wyn Henderson (Dylan declined) and she told her biographer Paul Ferris that she found it miraculous that her children looked like Dylan.

Donald Raye has 66 years behind him, one tooth, skin like a comfy saddle, winning charm and a memory for anecdotes. His father, Danny, was named in Dylan's work. The poet, said Donald, "used to fill my dad up with beer and he would tell Dylan all these stories. My dad was a character, mind. Dylan used to write it all down on bag



Caitlin Thomas: "she was a helluva woman"

packets... She was a helluva woman. I remember the Laugharne carnival after Dylan died. She had a skirt up to here and danced like a mad woman. She was blotto, mind."

"When Dylan died, the people of Laugharne — it's not a big place — collected for Caitlin. Raised £500 or so and sent it to her. She sent it back and said, 'Give it to the poor

people of Laugharne'. That did her in Laugharne."

Louie and Dai Thomas lived above Dylan's parents in a Georgian house. "She was a bit of a wild woman," Louie said, "but she could be a perfect lady, and a real beautiful one. She was a difficult woman to get to know, but she was generous to a fault to those that knew her."

At a pub that used to be known as The Cross House Inn and which three weeks ago reopened as Under Milk Wood, complete with Captain Car's Bar and Polly Garter Lounge, the landlord Stuart Buchanan said Caitlin's death had hardly registered in the town. "The younger generation don't care at all."

Back at Brown's, the horse-shoe of bar-counter regulars regard Laugharne as bigger than the Thomas couple, who barely married. St Martin's will be crowded, said one white-haired local, but don't go thinking that means anything, mind. "The church is always full for a funeral, however big a bastard he was."

## BBC to screen police 'supergrass' show

A BBC investigation into police use of "supergrasses" is to be broadcast tonight despite protests by chief constables, who claim the programme could put lives at risk. The *Panorama* investigation was first scheduled to be shown in July, but transmission was delayed after police complaints. Last night the BBC said the broadcast had been delayed because of concerns about current operational matters. The corporation now felt the programme was ready to be transmitted, but declined to comment on reports that the identity of an informer had been removed.

In a statement, the Association of Chief Police Officers said the programme had been described in the *Radio Times* as showing evidence that informers were now used to set up crimes to boost police successes. A senior BBC official said this was not the case. The dispute is the second between police and the BBC over investigations into police work. Last year Scotland Yard attacked the corporation over investigations of alleged police corruption and links with criminals. Requests by the association to see the latest programme in advance have been refused by the BBC.

## Council hires strippers

A council with a strict anti-sexism policy which bans pin-ups of naked women in council offices has been staging male strip shows. City Cuisine, the catering wing of Labour-controlled Newcastle upon Tyne City Council, has hired male erotic dancers to perform at women-only cabaret nights. Mike Summersby, the Conservative opposition leader on the council, said: "It seems a rather bizarre double standard from a politically correct council to allow this kind of performance at one of its own venues." A council spokeswoman said City Cuisine operated as a commercial venture and the events had been introduced because of "overwhelming demand".

## Anger over appeal costs

The Red Cross has urged people not to stop donating to the Rwanda emergency appeal after an argument erupted over Interactive Telephone Services, a private company allegedly making up to £12,500 a day from telephone cash pledges. The Red Cross said the money went largely to cover high equipment and processing costs.

## Pilot survives crash

A pilot walked away from the wreckage of his plane after the engine failed during an upside-down stunt 50ft above the ground yesterday. Paul Bonhomme, 29, a British Airways pilot from Bray, Berkshire, was believed to have suffered only facial injuries when his four-seater Russian Yak 18T crashed during an air display at White Waltham airfield.

## HIV outbreak at prison

A prisoner with HIV may have passed the infection to at least four fellow inmates, researchers said yesterday. They were drug users sharing needles in Glenochil prison, central Scotland, where 14 prisoners were found to be HIV positive last year. Voluntary saliva tests and questionnaires were completed by 84 per cent of the 352 prisoners.

## Water link to Tories

Twelve directors of the privatised water companies are also on the boards of firms that have donated £745,000 to the Conservative Party since 1979, George Howarth, Labour's shadow environment minister, claimed yesterday. "Not for nothing is there a saying 'He who pays the piper calls the tune'," he said.

## Man flies... 15 metres

The International Birdman Rally at Bognor Regis yesterday was won by the oldest competitor in the event's 22-year history, Robin Hiscott, 62, of Bannister Green, Essex, splashed down 15.28 metres after launching from the pier against a strong northeasterly wind. Nearest rival for the £1,000 prize was David Bradshaw, 21, from Bognor, who made the record flight of 89.2 metres in 1992. Yesterday he quickly came to grief. "The wind was in the wrong direction and tipped me over," he said after being rescued from the sea. "It's the first time I have looped the loop."

## RWANDA EMERGENCY

Please help to save lives.

1 million Rwandan refugees have poured across the border into Zaire. Thirst, poor sanitation, hunger and exhaustion are already killing them. Thousands more, particularly frail, elderly people, could die of cholera or dysentery within days unless they get water and medical supplies now. Help the Aged is helping to provide them with these life saving essentials. Please help us by giving a donation of £15 or whatever you can afford right away. Call 071 253 0253 now to make a credit card donation or return the coupon below today.

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## Mowlam derided over 'build new palace' proposal

By Emma Wilkins and Nicholas Wood

A PROPOSAL by Ms Mowlam, the shadow Heritage Secretary, that the royal family should move out of Buckingham Palace into a purpose-built mansion met with derision yesterday.

Ms Mowlam, Labour MP for Redcar, suggested in *The Mail on Sunday* that a modern monarchy should dispense with the "buried decorations and unimpressive feel" of Buckingham Palace.

Stephen Dorrell, Heritage Secretary, said Ms Mowlam's proposal that the Royal Family should move to a high-tech "People's Palace" with a designer kitchen was "bizarre" and misunderstood the nature of the monarchy.

As gleeful Tory MPs demanded Ms Mowlam's resignation, embarrassed Labour party officials distanced themselves from her idea. They insisted that her article was "a personal view" and did not represent party policy.

The National Trust, which Ms Mowlam suggested as a possible purchaser for Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, was astonished at the idea.

Mr Dorrell said: "As an institution, the monarchy has to express confidence in the future, but it is also part of our links with the past and represents continuity in national life. If you cut it off from its roots, which are in its palace buildings, then you cut

it off from what it draws strength from."

Mr Dorrell said it was incomprehensible that a Labour frontbench spokeswoman could call for public money to be spent on a new palace.

"If you spend money on a new building for the monarchy, you can't spend it on health or education. The proposal is off the wall," he said.

Ms Mowlam proposed that a new palace could be funded by public subscription to "palace bonds".

Yesterday she defended her proposals that the royal family should swap "red plush and gilt" for a "slightly less imperious style" featuring the latest pastoral-style kitchen with dried herbs and fine English wines.

"I am not proposing to throw out the Queen. The change would only take place with her consent," she said. "I want a self-confident expression of Britain's monarchy in a palace for the 21st century."

The scheme won support from Sir Roy Strong, former director of the Victoria & Albert Museum. "It's not such a dotty idea. Every century has produced a new palace except this one," he said.

A National Trust spokesman said it did not buy buildings. "We can't afford it. We need pretty hefty endowments to take on any historic houses, to guarantee their future upkeep."



Michelle Lassiter from Godalming, who queued overnight to be first in line for a Buckingham Palace tour

## Restocked palace is open for business

By Alan Hamilton

BUCKINGHAM Palace yesterday welcomed the public at the beginning of its second season. Its enlarged souvenir shop stocked to the gunwales with a new range of exceedingly tasteful trinkets.

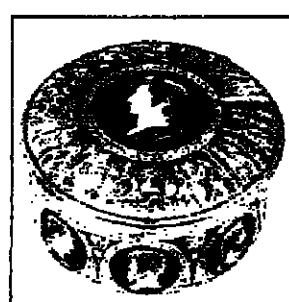
More than 1,000 people were in the queue at 9am when the new ticket office opened for business. The quota of 4,500 timed entry tickets was quickly snapped up.

About 400,000 people are expected to have visited the 18 state rooms by October 2. Last year the tours raised £2.2 million towards the restoration of Windsor Castle. This year's target is £2.5 million.

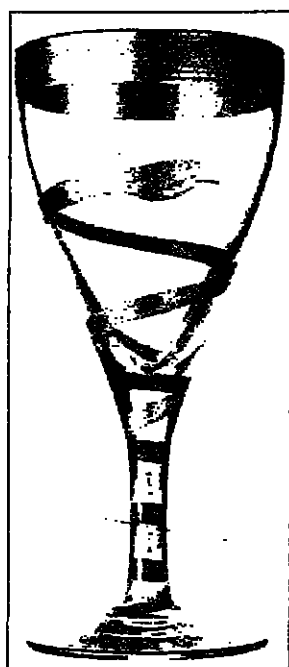
Officials are anxious to avoid the problems of last year's inaugural opening, when the souvenir shop proved such an unexpected success that almost every item sold out.

This year it has laid in 100,000 510 commemorative china mugs — last season's most popular line — and the shelves are groaning with 70,000 china pillboxes at £8.

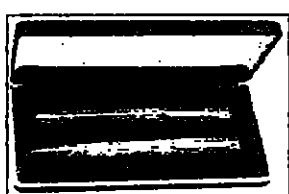
The palace has also introduced airport-style security screening at the entrance to handle the 7,000 daily visitors. But some things do not change. There is still nowhere to sit down, and there are no lavatories until the end.



£95: an enamelled box in the Sèvres style



£75: commemorative lead crystal goblet



£50: limited edition fountain pen set

Diary, page 14

## Boy burglar sent on 'therapy' holiday broke into 9 chalets

By Stewart Tandler

A BURGLAR aged 14 who was taken to a holiday village as part of therapy broke into nine chalets in two days and stole valuables worth £3,000, according to holidaymakers. He escaped with cash, cameras, a camcorder, portable stereos and jewellery before being caught in the act at the Centre Parcs holiday complex at Elveden, near Bury St Edmunds.

The incident is the latest in a series involving young offenders given holidays as part of treatment after sentencing.

Centre Parcs said staff accepted the booking under the impression that two adults and the boy had been an ordinary couple with their son.

The boy had been referred by Essex County Council to the Heartstone Trust, which specialises in rehabilitating young offenders.

He was taken by two staff for a week at the holiday centre, where a chalet for three costs £403 a week and offers squash, golf, archery, sailing, windsurfing and an indoor pool with water chutes and a wave machine. The boy, from Grays, Essex, who had previous convictions for burglary, ignored the facilities and escaped from his supervisors to burglarise the chalets.

An Essex County Council social services spokeswoman said the youth was being

"accommodated" by the council because his parents could not cope with him. There were worries about his welfare and "abandoning behaviour" and he had been placed with the Heartstone Trust for specialised care.

The spokeswoman said: "It was our understanding that there would be 24-hour supervision of the youth because of his 'abandoning' behaviour. We know that in spite of this high level of supervision the young person offended and faced charges. He is now in a secure accommodation unit, Centre Parcs

have confirmed with us their concern that they had insufficient information about this young person.

"But they believe it was the responsibility of the organisation who had responsibility of the young person on our behalf to share that appropriate information about him with them."

"They have again confirmed there was no deliberate withholding of any information about the young person on our part."

Jillian Reeves, a Conservative member of the Essex social services committee, said: "Council tax payers will

be horrified, and quite rightly appalled, to see their money spent on sending a youth like this on holiday. There seems to be far too much of this sort of thing these days. I will be making it my business to find out what happened."

Ralph Knight, an independent member of the committee said: "It is deplorable that this lad was sent away and behaved in this way. I firmly believe that offenders should be punished by depriving them of things and reducing their lifestyle, rather than rewarding them with trips like this. This matter needs to be discussed as a matter of urgency by the social services committee to make sure the situation is not repeated."

A spokesman for Centre Parcs said: "We would like to be told if someone wanted to bring along a young offender. I cannot say we would accept a booking or turn it down because every case would be looked at individually. In marketing terms Centre Parcs is aimed at the upper end of the market — families from A, B and C1 groups. Crime is not usually a problem and we would never tolerate misbehaviour from anyone."

No one was available for comment yesterday at the Heartstone Trust.

The boy was given a one-year supervision order in June by a youth panel at Bury St Edmunds after admitting the burglaries in March.

**Centre Parcs**

## Joyriders

Continued from page 1 find this car and speak to its occupants. Witnesses say that they were overtaken first by a Cavalier and then a Fiesta, both travelling fast.

"Mrs Mansell was driving perfectly properly when her car was hit head on by the powerful Vauxhall."

Thomas's grandparents and other relatives spent the day with him yesterday. Friends and neighbours described Mr Mansell, a chemist, and his wife as the "perfect family couple" who doted on their only child.

Mr Mansell worked for the Ford Motor Company and had gained a degree in chemistry earlier this year. Mrs Mansell worked as an administration officer for Mid Glamorgan County Council.

Ray Taylor, a close friend of Mr Mansell, said: "Everyone is absolutely devastated. They had been married for 16 years and Susan had to have fertility treatment before she became pregnant."

"They were told he would probably be the only child they could have and they adored him. It is a great tragedy that he has now been left without parents."

## Murder linked to four other killings

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE murder of a woman found naked and strangled may be linked to four other murders in the Midlands.

The body of Julie Finley, 23, who was known to have contacts with the Liverpool vice world, was found in a field beside the A570, close to Skeithersdale, at the weekend. The dead woman, who was 5ft 3in and weighed 6½ stone, had not lived at her parents'



Finley: had contacts with vice world

home in Liverpool for several months and police are trying to establish where she had been staying recently.

Although she had no convictions for prostitution, police believe that she may have been picked up by a client before her body was found, close to a "lovers' lane" area. She is known to have associated with drug-users and may have developed a crack habit.

Police say no effort had been made to hide the body, which was in a hedge. There were no signs that she had been violently attacked but there were marks on her upper body that indicated a struggle.

Detective Superintendent Bob Denmark, who is leading the murder inquiry, said it would be looking at possible links with the murders of four young women, three of them prostitutes and the fourth Julie Ann Clayton, an Australian who had joined a religious commune. Her body was found in Lincolnshire last month.

## Sylvie Guillem has a way of dancing around tradition.

Her suppleness is legendary. Her command over those incredibly long limbs means that

Guillem frequently finds herself in conflict with the traditions and rules of classical ballet.

every performance evokes gasps from audiences around the world.

However, Sylvie Guillem is the first to point out that the exceptionally lithe body with which she has been gifted is a blessing in disguise: "You must work on this gift so that it does not become a defect."

That is why she constantly strives to push her performances beyond technique pure and

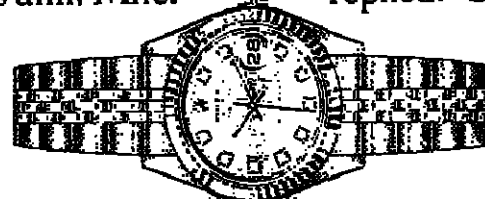
simple. "After that, you work on something else: how to express things. I want people to remember me as a dancer who tells a story with her body." In pursuit of this aim, Mlle.

ability. The photographer paused for a moment to enquire what this ballet position is called.

With a smile, Mlle. Guillem

replied: "Six o'clock. Precisely."

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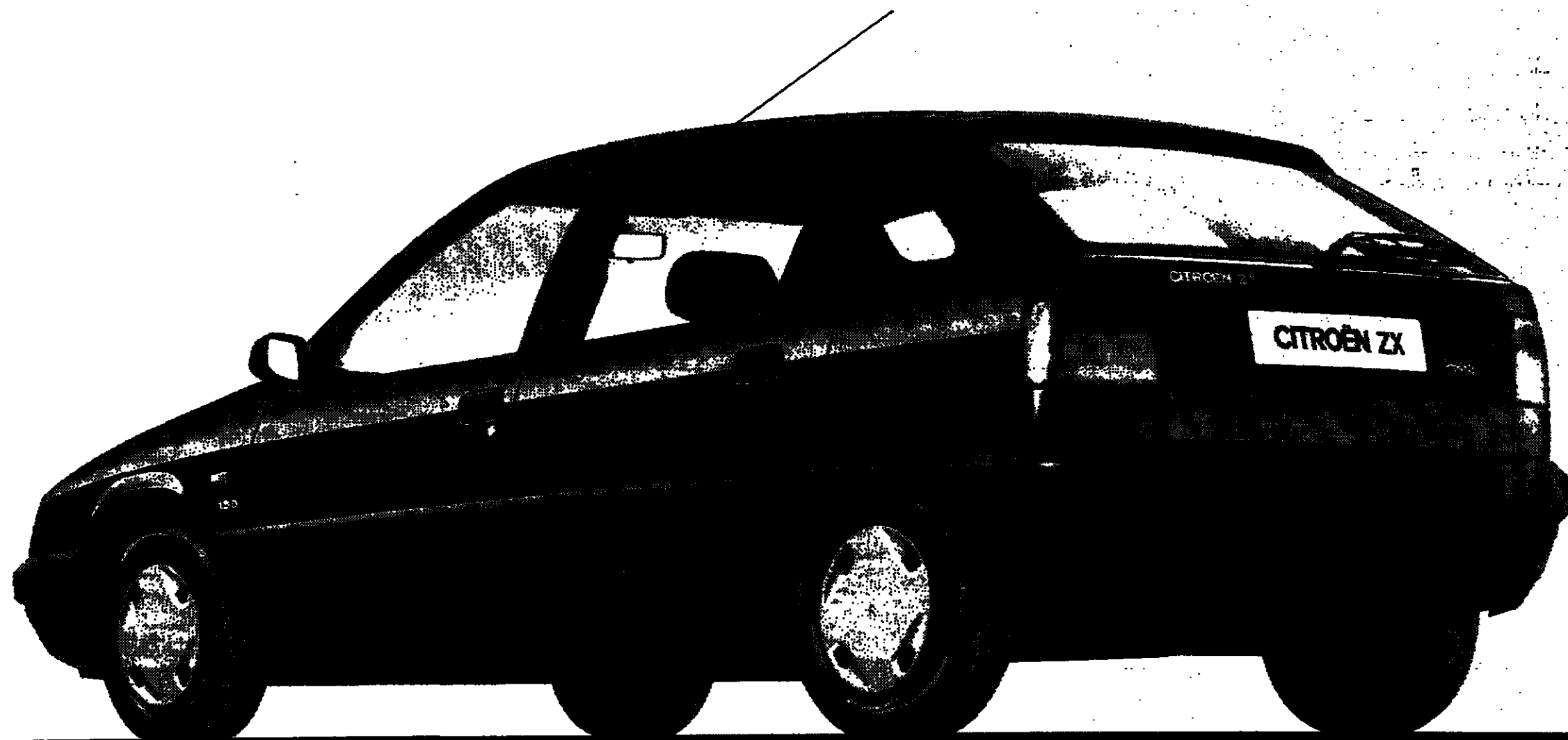
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CVE kills  
woman in f  
her five ch



Man  
after

NEWS

Man  
in killing

Blind to

Family

Body



# UVF kills pregnant woman in front of her five children

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LOYALIST gunmen yesterday admitted murdering a pregnant woman of five in front of her children at her home at Greenacres, near Omagh, Co Tyrone.

Kathleen O'Hagan, 38, whose husband Patrick served a prison sentence in the mid-1970s for possession of firearms and explosives, was shot in her bedroom late on Saturday by men from the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force.

She was cradled as she died by her sons Pat, 8, Damien, 7, Niall, 6, and Raymond, 4. Her fifth son, 18-month-old Thomas, had been asleep in his cot in her room as the terrorists opened fire.

Mr O'Hagan, 40, who was not at home at the time of the shooting, discovered his wife's body when he returned just after 4am yesterday.

In a statement yesterday the UVF admitting having carried



Kathleen O'Hagan: was seven months pregnant

out the shooting, and claimed that Mrs O'Hagan had republican connections and that her husband would also have been shot had he been at home.

The statement added: "We in the UVF will show republicans how hard it is to listen to

a diet of peace while they wage the deadly deed of war. Brace yourselves for death because you are going to see plenty of it."

A local priest said that Mrs O'Hagan, who was seven months pregnant, had been found lying in a corner of her bedroom which was pockmarked with bullet holes. Father John Ryder said that Mrs O'Hagan would have tried to protect her children when the gunmen broke through the back door of her modern bungalow. "Some of the bullet marks were over the cot. She was huddled in the corner of the room. I expect she would have heard those who did it when they came in and she would have done her best to protect her children," the priest said.

Dr Robin Eames, Church of Ireland Priest, said the vast majority of Protestants in the area would be "totally disgusted" by the killing. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, condemned the attack.

A local Social Democratic and Labour Party councillor described it as "a revolting act of depravity".

Seamus Shields, a mid-Tyrone councillor, said: "It is difficult to comprehend how men could enter a house in the middle of the night and do to death a mother in front of her children. People in the area are now very frightened."

Dr Philip McGarry, the chairman of the Alliance Party, said the attack was a "vicious cold-blooded atrocity" and one of the most appalling murders in recent years.

The shooting took place not far from the Tebbane crossroads where the IRA murdered eight Protestant workmen in a landmine attack on their van in February 1992.

Since then, the UVF has carried out a series of attacks on Catholics in the area. Northern Ireland could be entering yet another round of tit-for-tat shootings. The Ulster Freedom Fighters attempted to carry out a series of gun attacks last week after the IRA murdered two Loyalists in Belfast last Sunday.

25 Bloody Years, page 27

## Beatles for sale may be Sotheby's record

BY EMMA WILKINS  
AND DALYA ALBERGE

THE first meeting between John Lennon and Paul McCartney, which was to forge one of the greatest partnerships in rock music history, followed a shrill performance by Lennon and his teenage group, The Quarry Men, at a church fete in Liverpool.

Now a tape recording of that performance on July 6, 1957, which impressed McCartney enough to want to join the group, is to be sold at auction. The recording, which is expected to fetch between £100,000 and £150,000 at Sotheby's next month, was made by a boy in the audience.

It has been locked in a bank vault for 30 years, but is now expected to be the most important item at a huge auction of rock and roll memorabilia.

Lennon and McCartney, who were initially wary of each other, met backstage at the church hall in Woolton, Liverpool, where McCartney, then 15, showed off his guitar skills to the 16-year-old Lennon.

McCartney, who was taken along by a friend, remembers the skiffle group being "not bad", but they did not know all the words to *Maggie May*, the Liverpool sea shanty, and Lennon had to improvise.

"They weren't bad," McCartney remembers. "None of the others had even as much idea as John how to play. They were mostly just strumming along. They played things like *Maggie May*, but with the words a bit different. John had done them up himself as he didn't know them all."

McCartney, who was wearing black drainpipe jeans, went backstage and showed Lennon some new chords.

"I went round to see them afterwards in the Church Hall place," he says in Hunter Davies's authorised biography, *The Beatles*. "I talked to them, just chatting and showing off. I showed them how to play *Twenty Flight*



Lennon and The Quarry Men at the Woolton fete, a performance that impressed the watching McCartney

Rock and told them all the words." McCartney, who felt he made a good impression, remembers Lennon, two years his senior, as being a "big man".

"He'd just had a few beers. He was 16 and I was only 14 [sic], so he was a big man. I showed him a few more chords he didn't know. I felt I'd made an impression, shown them how good I was."

His playing greatly impressed Lennon, who could not decide whether to invite him to join the group on the ground that he might prove a serious rival.

"I was very impressed by Paul playing *Twenty Flight Rock*," Lennon says in the Davies biography. "He could obviously play the guitar. I half thought to myself - he's as good as me. I'd been king pin up to then. Now, I thought, if I take him on, what will happen? It went through my head that I'd have to keep him in line. If I let him join. But he was good, so he was worth having."

McCartney joined the group a few months later. His influence brought Little Richard tunes into the group's repertoire and he and Lennon began writing their own songs, both individually and together. After George Harrison joined The Quarry Men in 1958, the group went through a series of name changes calling themselves, among other things, Johnny and the Moondogs and the Silver Beatles before settling on The Beatles in 1960. In the recording



The Quarry Men after McCartney joined the group

ing, Lennon's distinctive voice can be heard singing the Elvis Presley B-side song *Baby, Let's Play House* and Lonnie Donegan's *Puttin' On The Style* - then top of the charts.

The tape was made by Bob Molynex, then aged 16 and now a retired policeman aged 53, on his Grundig tape recorder. "Lennon was very clearly the leader of the group," Mr Molynex said. "He stood in

the centre of the stage, not a lot of movement, but during the instrumental breaks I remember him dancing about and singing in a screechy-type voice."

Six years later, when The Beatles became successful, Mr Molynex put the tape in a bank vault for safekeeping. "Now I think it should be shared," he said.

Among other memorabilia associated with The Beatles in Sotheby's sale on September 15 is the drum skin, valued at £40,000, used on their American television debut and a manuscript of lyrics to Lennon's song *You've Got To Hide Your Love Away*, expected to fetch £30,000. The year was 1965: he scribbled them in a small address book handed to him by his chauffeur after asking for something to write on.

A unique 1964 Hofner violin bass guitar presented to McCartney by the German manufacturers is also in the sale and is expected to make £100,000. It was discovered by a guitar technician in a music shop in Doncaster, which paid £1,000 for it.

## Man dies from shock after family trauma

A MAN whose wife and son were badly burnt by an exploding barbecue has died from an illness apparently brought on by shock.

Patricia Mazek, 34, and Alex, 3, suffered 30 per cent burns in the barbecue accident in a friend's garden last month. They were taken to the burns unit at Pinderfields General Hospital, near Wakefield, where they are still being treated.

Antoni Mazek, 43, died suddenly last Monday from an asthma attack brought on by the trauma. His wife will attend the funeral today with the help of a nurse.

She said in hospital that she would carry on as best she could for the sake of her son. "I cannot believe what has happened. But I must carry on for Alex's sake. I know things will never be the same again."

Mrs Mazek said that she had told her son but that he was too young and too ill to

understand fully. "I can barely come to terms with this myself. Toni was a fit man."

"He had slight asthma attacks but nothing like this. It was brought on by the stress of Alex and I being ill. How can one family be so unlucky?"

Mr Mazek, a plasterer, had been working at the time of the accident. The family, who live in Buttershaw, Bradford, had returned from a holiday in Turkey four days earlier.

Mrs Mazek's mother, Mary Stenson, said: "Antoni seemed to be bearing up fantastically but there were things on the inside he just wasn't showing. He was hurting so badly inside and had an acute asthma attack."

"She and Alex were doing well in hospital. They would have had some difficult times ahead but this has just been too much. We are coping with great difficulty."

## Prisoners tell inside story

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AT PARKHURST, new cell wings have been constructed by inmates. At Woodhill prison, Buckinghamshire, there are calls for a proper barber to give the prisoners a decent haircut. At Leyhill in Gloucestershire, a thriving bird club recently produced a successful show won by a red peach-faced love bird.

The news reports in Britain's prison magazines and newspapers may not be at the cutting edge of journalism, but more than 50 publications flourish behind the walls of Britain's prisons, according to a report published today.

Gossip columns, astrology charts and even the odd wedding report grace the pages of publications ranging from a few sheets to thick magazines complete with photographs.

According to the Prison Reform Trust, which carried out a survey of prison journalism, the publications provided



Dartmoor shows few editors can resist a pun

an outlet for prisoners, an exchange of information and opinions and work experience.

The Home Office supports the magazines, which are local initiatives often encouraged by education departments. About a third are edited by prisoners themselves. At Littlehey, in Cambridgeshire, *Breakout* is always edited by a prisoner, usually one serving life.

The report notes that there

were few problems with censorship over any sexual content or criticism of the regime and observed "the number of juvenile jokes and pornographic or drug-related articles was a lot lower than one would find in student rag mags or indeed in some mass circulation magazines".

But at Whitmoor top security prison in Cambridgeshire the magazine was closed after the prison authorities tired of the abusive and direct criticism of the regime.

Few editors can resist a good pun even if it is only in the title of their publication. Durham, home of some of Britain's toughest prisoners, produces *Behind the Door*. Camp Hill in the Isle of Wight has *Inside Story*, while Dartmoor produces *Inside Out*.

The contents are often a cross between a school and a parish magazine with a spiky twist. Poetry and short stories evoke the poignancy of prison life, loneliness and the increasing dangers of the drug world.

## Man held in killings

Police are questioning a former soldier over the murders of his young son and his mother, who were found strangled in a house in Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Alan Cooney, 28, was found unconscious in the house after taking a suspected drug overdose. Police said they were not seeking anyone else in connection with the deaths of Myles Cooney, 5, and Ann Watkinson, 38.

## Blind to sea

Wally Pepper, 53, from Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire, has become the first blind person to be granted a skipper's ticket after a four-day examination at Falmouth, Cornwall, using tactile charts and an audible compass.

## Family seat

Haydon Edwards, 36, his wife Yvonne, 35, and their three children are enjoying spectacular coastal views from their home at Craster, Northumberland, which Mr Edwards has spent 12 months converting from a public lavatory.

## Body found

Police frogmen recovered the body of Mark Wheatley, 31, from the River Don in Doncaster after he fell from a pleasure boat while out with friends.

## Idol home

The British rock star Billy Idol was released from hospital in Burbank, California, after he was admitted in a critical condition from an apparent drug overdose on Friday night.

## Sacked vicar visits another church on first free Sunday

BY JOHN YOUNG

Staplefield but declined to come to the door or say how he planned to spend the rest of the day.

The 10am service in St Mark's Church, Staplefield, was taken by the Rev Charles Crofts, who retired 13 years ago and now lives in Haywards Heath.

In his sermon, Mr Crofts said that to be a Christian was to be a member of the family of Jesus Christ who had taught us to worship His Father in Heaven. There was a reality of God beyond the God within us, and He had visited and redeemed His people.

During the Offertory a prayer was said "for our former priest, Anthony". Among the congregation was the Earl of Snowdon, who is thought to have played a part in Mr Freeman's departure. He was accompanied by Daphne Denge, the daughter of a former vicar.

Lord Snowdon has a weekend home in the grounds of Nymans, a manor house

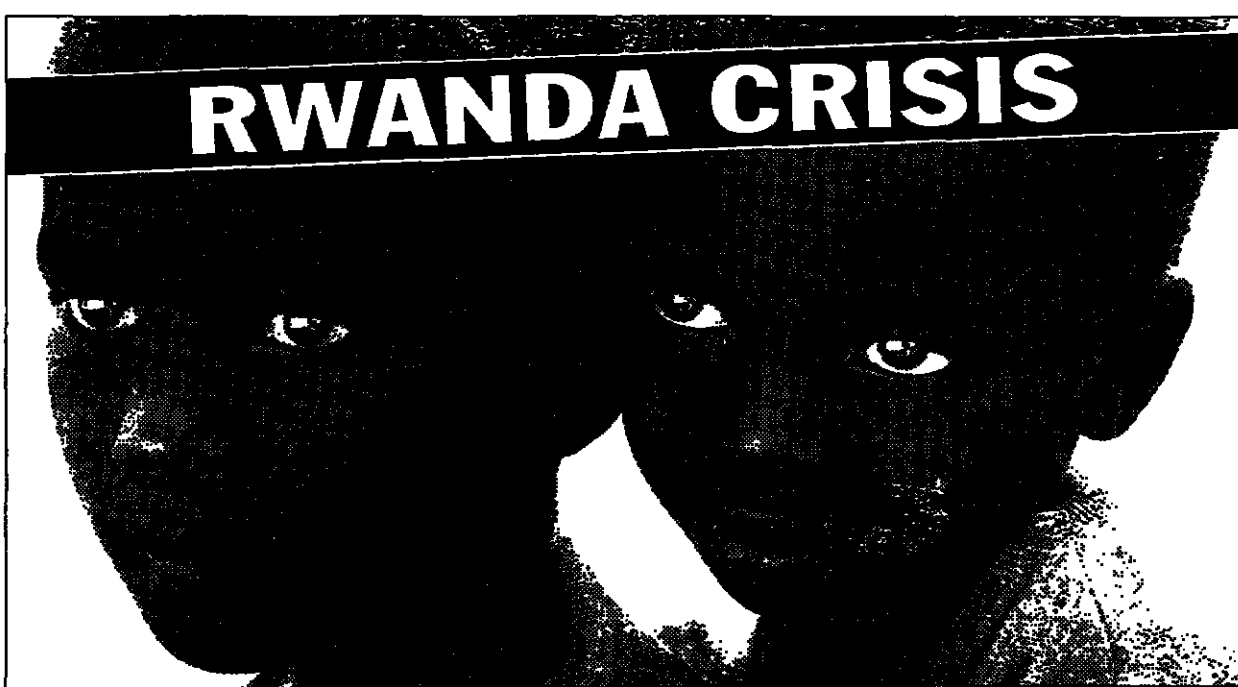
about a mile and a half away owned by the National Trust where his mother, the Countess of Rosse, lived until her death in July, 1992.

"It's nice to see him here today," Mike Tuckwell, the churchwarden, said. "I don't think he's been here since his mother died."

Mr Freeman is expected to continue to live in the vicarage for the next few weeks. There is normally a gap between one priest departing and his successor arriving, but the parish hopes to know who the new incumbent is before Christmas.

Mr Tuckwell said there had been a lot of talk about a split among the parishioners, but although some disagreed strongly with Mr Freeman's views, they were sticking together.

Mr Freeman was still a parishioner and could continue to worship in St Mark's. But that could be difficult for the person taking the service, and he was likely therefore to attend services elsewhere.



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## Woman makes her mark on the shuttle

By TIM JONES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LESS than a year after becoming bored with helping her husband to run a tattoo parlour in Dover, Tina Taylor is about to become the youngest of 15 women drivers operating Le Shuttle trains through the Channel Tunnel.

Mrs Taylor, 27, a Canadian, became a driver almost by accident when last December she read a Eurotunnel advertisement for staff for the services which will take tourist cars and lorries from Folkestone to France.

"Originally, I applied to become one of the train crew, but I learnt there were other things on offer so I went for it. I decided helping to run the shop was not for me and in any event I had no interest in learning how to do tattoos," Mrs Taylor said.

"I am very excited by the job and am sure the service will be a huge success. It is fast and hassle-free, just what the tourists want."

Mrs Taylor hopes to become fully qualified to drive the trains before the planned October start of the full "turn-up and go" service, which will be operated by more than 200 British and French drivers.



Tina Taylor switched from working in her husband's tattoo parlour to driving a Channel Tunnel shuttle train

## Teachers increase pressure for more cuts in curriculum

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT advisers are preparing to strip back the new syllabus national curriculum by an additional half-day each week in the face of pressure from teachers.

The changes, if approved by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, will give state schools a total of a day and a half each week to give lessons of their own choice.

The move by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) follows an initial analysis of the profession's response to Sir Ron Dearing's reform package, published in May. This proposed a 20 per cent cut in the compulsory curriculum to restore classroom peace after the teachers' boycott of national tests. However, consultation suggests that further cuts will be required to win their support.

One SCAA official said: "We are not sure that teachers have grasped the extent of the slimsdown, but we are prepared to go further to convince them. Contingency plans are being made to cut the curriculum by another 5 or 10 per cent."

The junior school curriculum is the most likely target. Officials are considering recalling the architects of the original proposals to search for more slack.

Subjects such as history, science, geography and technology will bear the brunt of a squeeze, with officials determined to leave the content of English and mathematics virtually intact.

History is the most likely source of controversy. Further cuts in the subject would inflame traditionalists already concerned that landmark events in British history have been ignored.

So far, the perilous task of revising the curriculum at speed has proceeded relatively smoothly. Only the National Union of Teachers has maintained outright opposition to the Government's deal of giving teachers greater responsibility for their lessons in exchange for accepting the need for public accountability through national testing. Yet

as deadlines loom, so the stakes are rising. Ministers have guaranteed the new curriculum will not be changed again before the end of decade.

The SCAA's full council will formally respond to the consultation and make amendments before the end of September. Mrs Shephard will publish the final curriculum orders in November before they are distributed to schools in January and taught from September 1995.

The NUT said in its formal response last week that the curriculum remained over-prescribed. The union called for more flexibility to allow schools to substitute their own ideas if they could show they were of equal merit.

The National Association of Head Teachers said it believed the current proposals would take up nearly 100 per cent of teaching time rather than the claimed 80 per cent. Market researchers are working through more than 60,000 responses to the consultation.

Education, page 31

## House sales may list price history

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE price paid for a property should be included in details available to the public, according to proposals from Her Majesty's Land Registry, which records all property transactions.

Should the proposals be accepted, the public will be able to find out how much was paid for any home in the country last time it changed hands.

Estate agents say the move would transform the property market by providing a clearer picture of it, improving the quality of forecasting and helping to combat property fraud. It could also prevent house-price inflation from running out of control. Lenders say the move would improve the reliability of mortgage valuations.

The information is already held on registry files, but is not available to the public. Until 1976, the price was automatically included in the details sent to solicitors dealing with property transactions, but the Law Society, which represents solicitors in England and Wales, claimed this was a nuisance.

Solicitors acting for vendors said that if the buyer found out how much had been paid for the property last time round,

they might want to renegotiate the price. Solicitors' clerks used to delete the price paid for the property in details sent to the buyers' solicitor.

In line with pressure for open government, the registry is now looking for ways of expanding its range of services, making maximum use of the information it has.

The proposals went out for consultation six months ago, and responses from interested bodies, though not the public, are being collated. Eric Davies, head of information at the registry, said the responses had been mixed.

A Law Society spokeswoman said: "The only advantage is that a clearer picture of the true property market may emerge, but the information to lead to this is readily available elsewhere."

"Property prices are regarded by the majority as a personal matter which should be kept private and confidential. With an open register there is no control over who obtains this information or what use they make of it."

The chief executive of the registry is due to make his recommendation to the Lord Chancellor next month.

Leading article, page 15

## Mackintosh dream home built

By OUR PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A HOUSE designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the celebrated Scottish architect, has been built 94 years after the plans were drawn.

The Artist's Cottage, at Farr, near Inverness, was completed in 1992 from unexecuted plans and elevational drawings prepared by Mackintosh in 1900 and held in the Hunterian Art Gallery in Glasgow. The house is for sale for £250,000.

Mackintosh's designs for the cottage and studio were almost certainly prompted by his marriage to Margaret MacDonald in 1900, and represent the plans for a family

home which he never managed to build. In 1896 he had designed the Glasgow School of Art, considered the first original example of art nouveau architecture in the country.

Mackintosh's domestic dream became reality for Dr Peter Tovell, 53, a biochemist and Mackintosh enthusiast, his wife Maxine and their two children. Dr Tovell said the true genius of the six-bedroom house was that it could be viewed from every angle and still look superb.

The two-storey building has a sloping wall finished in the traditional Scottish rough-

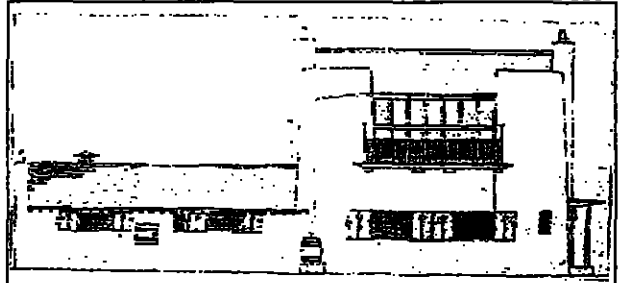
cast stone or "painted wet-hair", with leaded glass windows, slated roof and wrought-iron surrounds to a balcony at the front of the north-facing upstairs studio.

Dr Tovell has stuck faithfully to Mackintosh's design, apart from converting the servants' quarters and coal bunker into bedrooms with en-suite showers to create what he describes as a functional family home. Details of the interiors were derived from other designs by Mackintosh.

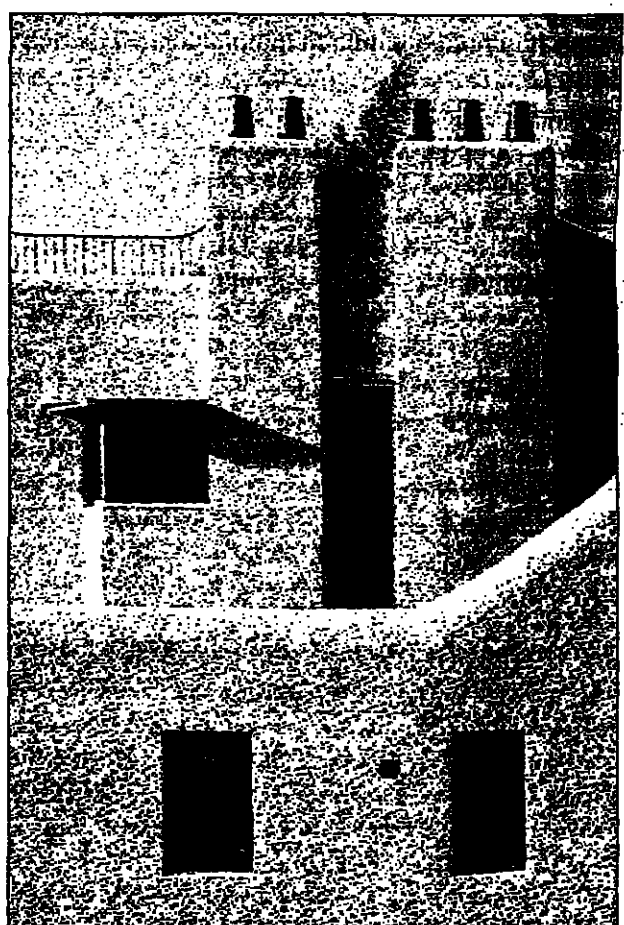
The architect left no indication as to where he thought the house should be built. Dr Tovell described it as quintessentially Scottish, but said it would not be out of place in any country.

It was built with the help of the Scottish architect Robert Hamilton MacIntyre, whose firm, Keppie, Henderson & Partners, was the successor to Mackintosh's practice.

Work still has to be finished on two gatehouses. They will be symmetrical, Mackintosh-designed, two-storey, three-bedroom buildings.



Mackintosh's plans were drawn up in 1900



The Artist's Cottage at Farr is for sale for £250,000

## European drug agency moves to Docklands

By MICHAEL DYNES  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE first European Union institution to be sited in Britain will move to the Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands next month.

The European Medicines Evaluation Agency, a new body responsible for licensing all drugs in Europe, will become the heart of Europe's multi-billion-pound pharmaceutical industry and is expected to bring thousands of jobs in its wake.

The agency is something of a consolation prize after it was decided that the infinitely more important

European Monetary Institute was going to Frankfurt.

Yet the move to Docklands represents a considerable personal triumph for Sir Peter Levene, the chairman of Canary Wharf Ltd, the private company owned by 11 banks.

It was Sir Peter's trilingual presentation in Brussels in June, where he extolled the virtues of London's new business community in the east, which convinced board members to abandon the alternative site in Hammesmuth, west London, and join the growing band of Docklands pioneers. Sir Peter, who is also the Prime Minister's efficiency adviser, gave up his other job

in January as chairman of the Docklands Light Railway to take on the task of transforming Canary Wharf into a going concern.

Next month, Fernand Sauer, the agency's newly appointed French chief, and up to 200 staff drawing large salaries, will take three floors at Canary Wharf's Westferry Circus complex. Other big names in the area include Texaco, Credit Suisse First Boston, Telegraph Publishing, Morgan Stanley, Ogilvy & Mather, and Mirror Group Newspapers.

The agency will be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of medicines throughout the Community,

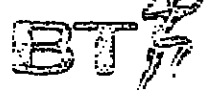
making it the equivalent of the US Food and Drug Administration. It will also be responsible for stimulating co-operation between member states.

Previous attempts to introduce a centralised European drug approvals regime have all ended in tears as governments have generally preferred to refuse licences for new medicines that might threaten the commercial success of their own pharmaceutical industries.

Under the new "one stop shop" licensing system, drug companies will be able to sell their products anywhere in the European Union after obtaining a licence from the new agency.

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Motorists overcrowded

RWANDA APPEAL: Children in Rwanda need your help



# Motorists face ban from overcrowded beauty spots

By Kevin Eason and Tim Jones

CARS will be banned from beauty spots unless ways can be found to control the millions of vehicles pouring into the countryside each year, the RAC said yesterday.

Some 900 million car trips a year are threatening to destroy the landscape. So-called honeypot sites and villages are so choked at summer weekends that restrictions have been imposed to force people to abandon their cars for special buses.

The RAC and conservation groups hope that a study beginning this week will help to solve the problems of congestion in areas not capable of coping with the volume of traffic. The RAC Foundation for Motoring and the Environment, the Countryside Commission and the North York Moors National Parks Authority are backing the research by Oxford Brookes University.

Clive Matthews, of the university's Centre for Tourism and Leisure Studies, said: "This subject will not go away."

It will just get worse unless something is done urgently."

Jeffrey Rose, the RAC chairman, said: "Effective traffic management in sensitive areas must balance improved access to the countryside with the preservation of rural life. If the opportunity to achieve this balance is not taken then draconian measures will be introduced. Access and enjoyment will be restricted and the

rural economy will suffer." Experiments which will start on the North York Moors could include pricing on roads and charges to enter the national park as well as traffic management schemes to divert cars from the busiest centres.

The area highlights the dilemma facing the tourism industry: it had more than 13 million visitors last year, a 94

per cent increase in under 15 years, with 90 per cent of visitors arriving by car.

Gothland, about ten miles from Whitby, was the location for the television series *Heartbeat*, the story of a policeman in rural Yorkshire in the 1960s. But with fame came thousands of cars.

Bill Breakell, the moors' tourism officer, said: "It is an emotive subject but a small town like Gothland has suffered an enormous impact from the thousands of visitors that it gets now. There is no point in being elitist because people want to see the countryside. But there must be balance."

So far, only the Peak National Park, visited annually by more than 22 million people, has banned tourists from driving to some areas at weekends from April to October.

According to the Countryside Commission, the ten areas most at risk are the Lake District, Dartmoor, the New Forest, the Yorkshire Dales, the Peak District, Box Hill in Surrey, the Brecon Beacons, Exmoor, the North York Moors and the Pembrokeshire coast.



Cliff Richard looks out over people queuing for the international Muslim conference at the Wembley Arena in north London yesterday, where more than 8,000 radicals cheered fervently at calls for the establishment of a global Islamic state to deliver "world peace and happiness". (Tim Jones writes.)

## 'Islamic world' call

would lead to violent confrontation proved unfounded. Only the brief appearance of Peter Tatchell with a handful of supporters from a group calling itself Queers Against Fundamentalism threatened disruption. Mr Tatchell and another man were arrested.

and charged with obstruction and public order offences. They will appear before Brent magistrates on September 5. The only signs of a backlash from young Jews protesting against the presence of Hizb ut-Tahrir, the organisation, responsible for leaflets

calling for the murder of Jews, came when a car raced by flying the star of David. Many speakers called for the overthrow of Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq, where political opposition is barred, and the setting up of an Islamic state.

Muslim backlash, page 10  
Leading article, page 15



## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Watson leads

LONDON grandmaster William Watson has taken the lead in the British Chess Championship at Norwich. After six of the 11 rounds he has scored 5 points and is now clear of the following group on 4.5.

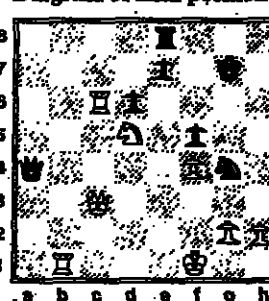
This was the decisive round five game which enabled him to take the sole lead.

White: William Watson  
Black: James Howell

#### Sicilian Defence

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1 e4    | c5   |
| 2 Nf3   | d6   |
| 3 d4    | cxd4 |
| 4 Qxd4  | a6   |
| 5 c4    | Ne6  |
| 6 Qc2   | g6   |
| 7 Be2   | Bg7  |
| 8 Nc3   | Nf6  |
| 9 Q-Q   | O-O  |
| 10 Rd1  | Rd8  |
| 11 Re1  | Bg4  |
| 12 Qc3  | Nd7  |
| 13 Bf1  | Bd3  |
| 14 Qd3  | Rc8  |
| 15 Qf3  | Na5  |
| 16 b3   | b5   |
| 17 Bg5  | bxc4 |
| 18 Ne5  | Ra8  |
| 19 b4   | Nc6  |
| 20 Bxc4 | a5   |
| 21 bxa5 | Nde5 |
| 22 Bb5  | h6   |
| 23 Bxf6 | Bxf6 |
| 24 Qc6  | Qc5  |
| 25 a4   | Qa7  |
| 26 Qa3  | Qa5  |
| 27 Rec1 | Ng7  |
| 28 f4   | Ng4  |

#### Diagram of final position



### Fide championship

In the Fide championship in Sanghi Nagar, India, the match between Viswanathan Anand (India) and Gata Kamsky (USA) ended in a 4-4 tie. This contest now moves into quickplay extra time.

Meanwhile, Valery Salov (Russia) leads Jan Timman (Holland) by 4-3, with one game left to play.

Boris Gelfand of Belarusia has assured himself of a place in the Fide semi-final by defeating Russia's Vladimir Kramnik by 4.5-3.5.

Anand has received the Rajiv Gandhi award for the best Indian sportsman.

Winning Move, page 36

## RWANDA APPEAL:

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MBPT1

## New think-tanks design Tony Blair a ready-made wardrobe of intellectual thought

## Off-the-peg policies to suit the Left

Even if Tony Blair shows few signs of being an original policy creator — a Keith Joseph or a Tony Crosland — his intelligence and open-mindedness should allow him to benefit from the intellectual ferment that has been quietly taking place on the fringes of the Labour Party during the past five years.

Almost unnoticed away from the corners of Westminster, another generation of think-tanks has been forming a new intellectual centre ground. On the left, the post-Thatcher years have already seen the most constructive period of strategic political thinking since the late 1930s, when young economists such as Evan Durbin and Harold Wilson married Keynesianism to the welfare state to create the New Jerusalem of the Attlee era. Mr Blair has shown evidence of listening and learning, and in this process he could do a lot worse than emulate the example of Margaret Thatcher. I doubt that Mr Blair's supporters will relish the comparison, but he comes to the leadership of his party in much the same circumstances as Margaret Thatcher came to hers in 1975.

She, too, was a comparatively unknown quantity. Conservative MPs voted for her not because she was a monetarist or a free-marketier, but because she was not Edward Heath. But she also took over at a time of intellectual upheaval in her own party, and learnt fast from the think-tanks and economists who were launching the monetarist revolution on the Conservative fringes.

Within a few years she had created a "vision", not by proclaiming the wisdom of her own ideas — she had very few of those — but by using her skills as a barrister to learn a

■ Tony Blair comes to his party's leadership in similar circumstances to Mrs Thatcher in 1975. He could do worse than emulate her tactics, Richard Cockett writes

new intellectual brief and translate it into political terms. Tony Blair now has the opportunity to do the same for Labour. Indeed, to a certain extent the new generation of think-tanks on the left has been consciously taken its cue from the success of the free-market think-tanks that launched the Thatcherite revolution: the Institute of Economic Affairs, the Centre for Policy Studies, the Adam Smith Institute, et al.

Older left-wing policy groups, such as the Fabian Society, have also been enjoying a revival. Their meetings attract hundreds of people and

agenda

pamphlets are picked over once again by leader-writers. More significantly for Labour, most of the new think-tanks attract cross-party support and interest. After the ideological rigidities of the 1980s, politics is again in a state of flux, as it was in the mid-1970s, with party lines becoming blurred in the search for a more modern and relevant political agenda. Much of this new thinking may be non-party in the strictest sense, but the drift is clearly in Labour's direction.

Demos, for instance, founded by Geoff Mulgan, a former research assistant to Gordon Brown, publishes pamphlets by Tory MPs, while the Social Market Foundation (SMF), the intellectual legacy of the Owenite rump of the SDP, has recently published two impor-

tant pamphlets critical of Thatcherite conservatism, one by David Willetts, MP, former director of the Centre for Policy Studies, and the other by John Gray, the Conservative political philosopher.

Labour politicians are again crossing the threshold of the Institute of Economic Affairs. Such intellectual cross-fertilisation would have been unthinkable only a few years ago and this is the fertile political ground that Mr Blair can make his own. Another sign of the times is the amount of business money the new think-tanks are attracting: again, a phenomenon that would have been unthinkable only a few years ago. That big business is funding research in non-Conservative organisations shows how far the pendulum has been swinging against the pure free-market approach of Thatcherite conservatism, as business is acknowledging rather quicker than the Conservative Party that the market addresses only some of its concerns.

Labour has also been tapping into the funds of educational charities such as the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the King's Fund. It has an impressive intellectual hinterland in place, if not quite the equal yet of the Conservative policy apparatus of the late 1970s.

What sort of ideas and policies can these think-tanks offer the new model Labour Party? What is most striking — and most difficult for Mr Blair — is the collective acknowledgement that there is no "big idea" for Labour. In this, the

SMF  
SOCIAL MARKET FOUNDATION



Daniel Finkelstein

The Social Market Foundation, set up in 1989 with funding from David Sainsbury, has been a consistent and skilful advocate of the social market economy. In its ability to attract writers and thinkers from across the political spectrum the foundation has been the best at breaking through traditional party loyalties. It has published important pamphlets this year on civic politics by John Gray and David Willetts. Daniel Finkelstein, director of Social Market Foundation, is former adviser to Lord Owen.

DEMOS



Martin Jacques

Demos, run by Martin Jacques and Geoff Mulgan, is strictly independent of all party loyalties. It is concentrating on developing long-term thinking about a multitude of policies, covering a wide, and often eclectic, range of socio-economic issues. Established in March 1993, Demos has already been credited with influencing Tony Blair on his favourite theme — the role of the community in politics. It offers the most challenging, if sometimes indigestible, political agenda for the next century.

I?P?R



David Milliband

The Institute for Public Policy Research is the biggest of the new think-tanks, set up by the businessman Clive Hollick in conjunction with Neil Kinnock's office in 1988. Until recently, the IPPR was run by James Cornford and Patricia Hewitt. One of its officers, David Milliband, is to join Tony Blair's new private office. The IPPR has been responsible for running the Commission on Social Justice, set up by John Smith, which will report in the autumn. Its new director, Gerry Holtham, is expected to be a force in the Blair camp.

work and to alter tax patterns and incentives accordingly. Just as Patricia Hewitt has argued in an IPPR paper that in employment policy the Government is still fighting the last battle of Thatcherism while largely ignoring the reality of the new job market of flexible hours, part-time work and female employment.

David Hargreaves of Cambridge University published a brilliant pamphlet for Demos which advocated a radically different approach to educational assessment in schools, leaping years over the sterile debate on opting out versus opting in.

Demos also emphasises the theme of feminism, reflecting probably the most important long-term trend in socio-political change of the past two decades. Such diverse groups as Charter 88 and the Campaign for Full Employment have also had an impact on recent Labour thinking.

The think-tanks stress the need to acknowledge recent trends in lifestyles by devolving power down to local or even individual levels, thus giving people greater autonomy but also making them more responsible for the consequences of their actions. This kind of thinking represents a radical break with the centralising tendencies of government during the Thatcher years and the limiting forms of social control that went with it.

Tony Blair has proposed change. If he seems unclear as to what changes he wants to see, the intellectual renaissance on the left in the past few years might not lead him to a New Jerusalem, but it might enable him to steer the Labour Party in the direction of a modern, prosperous and European social democracy.

He can perhaps afford to maintain John Smith's low political profile for the moment, but he has a rare opportunity to mould together all these disparate strands of new thinking into something as clear and distinct as Margaret Thatcher's message to the electorate in May 1979.

Richard Cockett is author of *Thinking the Unthinkable* (HarperCollins, £25)

Leading article, page 15

**TOMORROW: Waiting for Tony Blair** — how the City, industry and the world of arts and science plan to live with a Labour government

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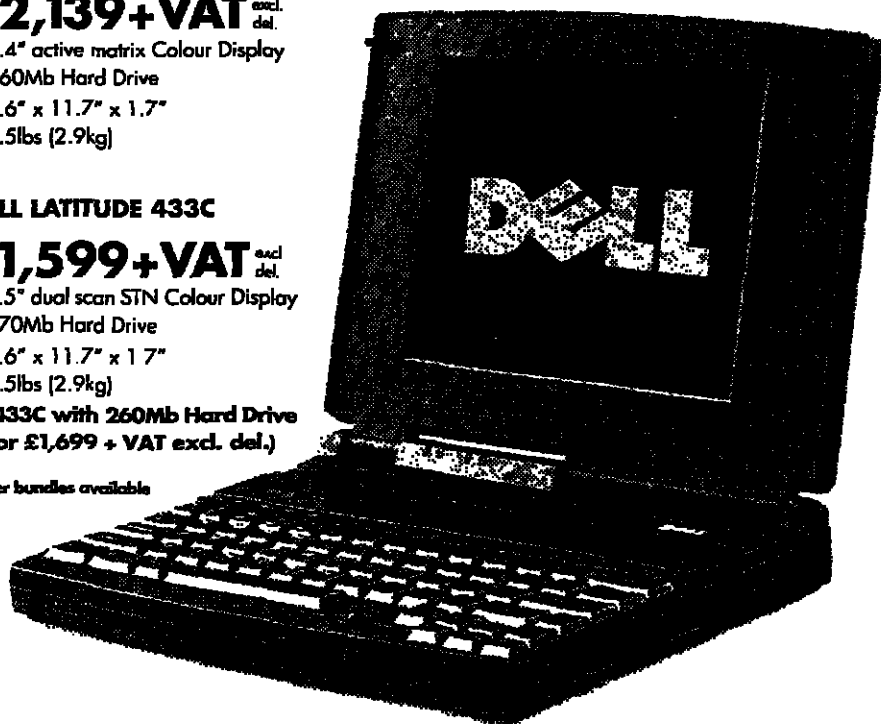
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Russian fear of greater Nato role in Bosnian conflict lies behind Karadzic feud with Milosevic

## Serb media lavish praise on President for dropping former ally

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

THE rift between President Milosevic of Serbia and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, descended into the realms of farce at the weekend when the official Belgrade media performed editorial gymnastics to vilify Dr Karadzic.

In a U-turn unimaginable a week ago, a stream of politicians, officials and army veterans were paraded on state television to praise Mr Milosevic as a man of peace for withdrawing support for the Bosnian Serbs and heaping abuse on Dr Karadzic.

Foreign reports on the Serb strangulation of Sarajevo have been lent new credence instead of being ignored or denounced as propaganda. Dr Karadzic has published several volumes of poetry and *Politika*, the Belgrade daily, said: "Once peace comes, the people cannot be led by the men who bombarded civilians in Sarajevo and those who, to the world's revulsion, promoted their poetry over Sarajevo while the city was burning."

The Bosnian Serb leader told his beleaguered people: "Now we are totally, totally alone, only God is with us." He refrained from criticising the Belgrade regime. "We would rather hang ourselves than attack Serbia," he said.

The feud between Mr Milosevic and Dr Karadzic is believed to have been engineered by Russia, which wants to be able to persuade the West that Serbia is doing all it can to support the latest peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The rump Yugoslavia faces harsh new sanctions if the Bosnian Serbs continue to reject the plan and Moscow fears the arms embargo

against the Bosnian Muslims could be lifted if the war continues. Removing the ban would probably lead to the withdrawal of United Nations peacekeepers and Moscow fears a much more hardline Nato force could take over.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the commander of UN troops in Bosnia, said yesterday that he had gone to considerable lengths to limit Nato's air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions outside Sarajevo last Friday.

General Rose also warned Bosnian Serbs to keep away from the anti-tank vehicle bombed by the alliance. UN sources say four other Serb heavy weapons were targeted. Nato sources say there were up to 20 other targets they could have hit.

"The fact that we were very carefully controlled in the use of force, that we warned people beforehand, that the scope of the operation was so limited, means that we will not have destroyed the road back to peace," General Rose said. There was no disagreement, he said, between UN and Nato commanders on how to respond to the Serb provocation.

On Friday morning a group of Bosnian Serb soldiers forcibly retrieved a T55 tank, two armoured personnel carriers and two anti-aircraft weapons from a UN-controlled collection point. All were returned after Friday's air attacks.

It appears that General Rose is trying to convince the Serbs that they can avoid more forceful Nato air raids only by co-operating with the UN. "In some ways [Friday's air raids] reinforces our relationship with them," said another UN officer. "Every



Bosnian Serb soldiers crossing the Bosna by rope yesterday during a training exercise near Doboj. Their leaders have vowed that they would fight on alone after President Milosevic of Serbia withdrew support for their cause.

time they hear a plane up in the air, they will see us as their best air defence system." Despite Friday's show of resolve, the Serbs have not eased their pressure on the Bosnian capital. The roads to the city remain closed and sniping continues. UN relief flights have been suspended and no food has reached Sarajevo in 13 days.

After the sealing of the border with Serbia and Mr Milosevic's media blitz against him, Dr Karadzic has ordered the working population in Serb-held areas of Bosnia to be reorganised in "companies and brigades".

UN summit and  
Soldiers hurt, page 1  
Letters, page 15

## Macedonia helps sanction-busters to cross its border

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN SKOPJE

THE two foreign customs officers did not utter a word, but their grined teeth and bitter grins spoke volumes about the futility of monitoring sanctions on the Macedonian-Serbian border.

In the space of ten minutes they had tried, and failed, to persuade Macedonian customs men to turn round four lorries on the frontier that bisects the main road between Skopje and Pristina. Two 36-ton lorries "carrying salt for a Belgrade hospital" did not even have their loads checked before being waved on.

The Macedonians at least had the decency to open the containers of two vehicles heading south and discovered men's sports jackets. But although these products are banned, the drivers were given permission to cross.

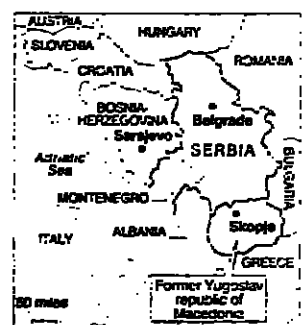
These were comparatively insignificant cargoes, yet they help to keep Serbia's economy alive, and according to the United Nations are just the tip of a strategically important iceberg. "Every week in the past few months there have been massive violations," Hugo Anson, the head of UN civil affairs in Skopje, said.

The international customs monitors said that the number of sanctions-busting lorries crossing the frontier had dropped from an average of 1,200 a week to 800 this month,

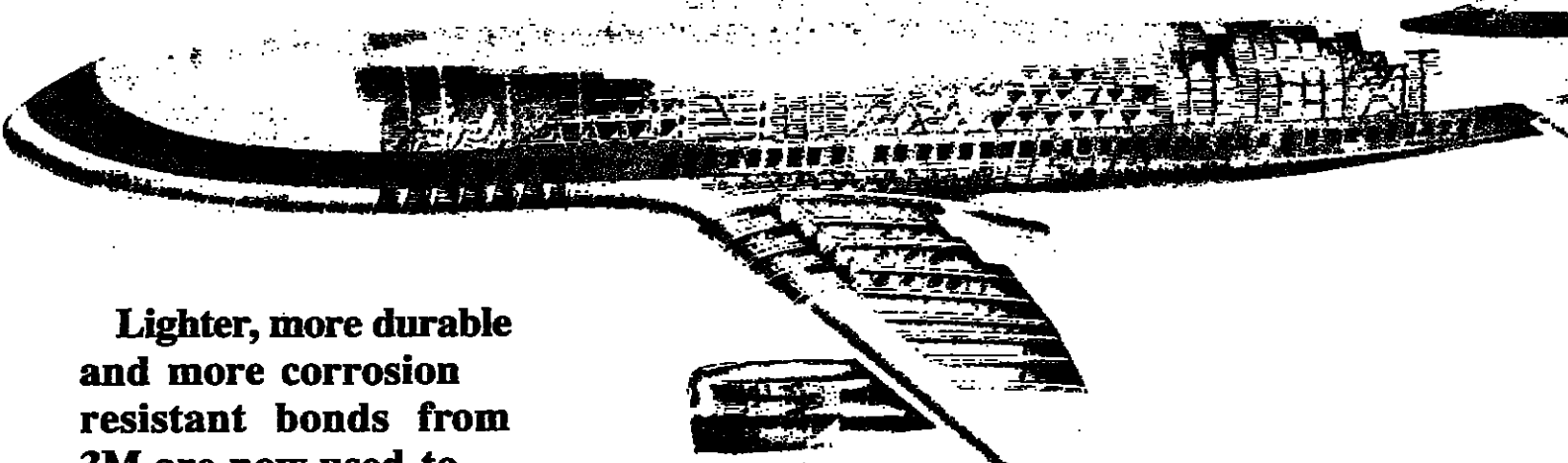
but there were still hundreds of goods trains rattling north. Skopje acknowledges that it is breaking sanctions, but claims it was forced to do so after Greece imposed an economic blockade in February as part of the dispute over Macedonia's name.

Any attempt to strangle Serbia will be fraught with dangers. The only way would be to seal Serbia's borders, but in Macedonia alone UN sources estimate the present 1,000 troops will need to be increased by 5,000.

The Macedonians hope that a tougher regime will not be imposed. "If that happens, we will die," said Dimitar Belchev, an Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Skopje claims it will need compensation of at least £133 million to sustain the unemployed and to prevent civil unrest.



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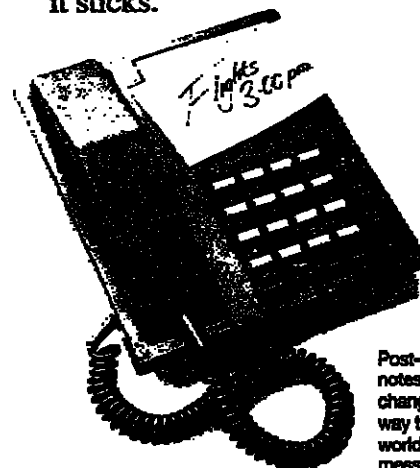
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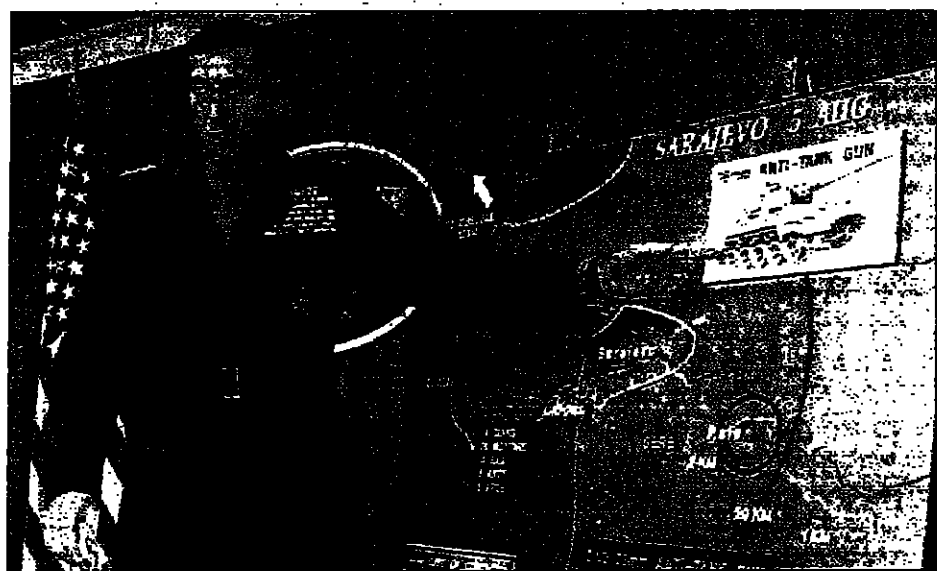
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Lieutenant-General John Sheehan, at a weekend Pentagon briefing, pointing to the picture of an anti-tank gun like the one destroyed by Nato near Sarajevo on Friday

## Poland's jet set discovers a beach paradise in Hel

FROM ROGER BOYES IN HEL

HOLIDAYING in Hel taps the schoolboy humour of the English, who naturally add an extra 't' to the name of the Baltic peninsula and send witty 'wish you were here' postcards to neighbours. Fortunately there are few British or any other kind of foreigners on Hel: it has become the insiders' haven, the resort of Poland's new jet set.

On the white-sanded Baltic coast, a dozen millionaires and many more hangers-on dig into their Christian Dior beachbags and exchange business cards, mint deals and network as fiercely as in Manhattan. The key resort is Jurata, which the Polish construction and electronics magnate, Zbigniew "Dick" Niemcewicz, is trying to build into Central Europe's summer playground.

The Bieze Hotel, white-washed in Mediterranean style, boasts a massage, a beautician, a cinema, swimming pool and tennis courts, an Ungar boutique and a nearby private airport.

The significance of this resort goes beyond local tourism. For four years since the collapse of communism there has been ambitious talk of co-operation between Baltic states. A sea whose littoral includes Germany, Russia,

Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia should present a myriad of possibilities for political and financial initiatives. But the politicians have not been able to come to grips with a regional policy. Investment is following the usual pattern - Finns and Swedes were investing in Estonia long before the collapse of com-



munist. But there has been no economic miracle.

The future of Baltic resorts in Lithuania, Poland and east Germany is thus in the hands of domestic entrepreneurs. In the case of Poland, the coastline has become a testing ground of the new middle class and its ability to succeed where prewar entrepreneurs, postwar Communist bosses and Western

investors failed. Mr Niemcewicz's skill has been to transform the stamping ground of one elite - the Communist politicians mingled with theatre directors, famous critics and factory managers - into a resort for the new ruling class. Since Poland's new breed of millionaires think nothing of flying to Bermuda for a holiday, Mr Niemcewicz had to offer something bigger, better, more exclusive.

The point is not only to create a new, cohesive elite, but to generate wealth in the region. Down the railway track from Jurata is Hel naval base, which currently makes little military sense, and to the west of the peninsula, the fishermen's village of Chalupy is rundown.

For years the organisers of Chalupy's nudist beach had to fend off the wrath of Communist authorities and the Catholic Church to set up their annual Miss Natura competition. Now they are looking for private sponsors to keep the contest alive. At least one local boy has been demonstrating that the spirit of enterprise is catching on: he is renting out a telescope to view the figures, devoid of beachwear, reclining on the Baltic sand.



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## Governments counter Islamic extremists out of fear of fundamentalist movements

## Paris braces for Muslim backlash as Algerians are seized

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

POLICE staged an elaborate security operation in Paris over the weekend as the authorities prepared for a possible terror campaign by Muslim extremists in retaliation for France's hardline support for the embattled government of Algeria.

About 60 people were detained, mainly for immigration and driving offences, after identity checks on thousands of drivers and pedestrians in central Paris and northern districts with high North African populations.

"The aim is to guard sensitive points, but above all to ensure the tranquillity and safety of the Parisian population," said Patrick Bardey, the controller of public security.

The operation was a show of force by Charles Pasqua, the uncompromising Interior Minister, to Muslim extremists who stepped up their offensive against French interests in Algeria last week, and acknowledged that the crisis in France's former colony has spread to the mainland. The murders of three gendarmes and two consular officials in Algiers on Wednesday have led Paris to harden its resolve to back the unpopular, military-led regime of President Zouari as the lesser evil compared with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

M. Pasqua and other ministers yesterday brushed off an ultimatum from the armed wing of FIS demanding the release of 17 alleged Muslim activists who were rounded up by police on Friday. "The arrest and detention of these brothers, most of them members of the FIS or sympathisers in the cause for which they are fighting, means that France has declared war on the FIS and on Algerian Muslims," the Islamic Salvation Army said.

At least 4,000 Algerians and 56 foreigners have been killed in the "dirty war" over the past two years in which extremists have targeted officials, troops, intellectuals and journalists of the French-speaking elite. The dead include hundreds of victims of assassination squads linked to the military. On

Saturday, gunmen shot dead the head of an agronomy institute in Blida, south of Algiers. Although the terror campaign has driven out all but a few hundred of France's big expatriate population, the Defence and Foreign Ministers flew to the capital to insist that France would never abandon "the Algerian people".

France is at odds with most big Western nations who argue that the only solution to civil war lies in dialogue with moderate Muslim leaders. Backed by popular opinion but under fire from the Socialist opposition, the Gaullist-led government of Edouard Balladur has embarked on a campaign to convince its allies that there can be no compromise in the struggle to prevent an anti-Western fundamentalist regime from taking over.

M. Pasqua's emergence as the government's front man is a signal of France's view of Algeria as a partly domestic crisis. The language is a far cry from President Mitterrand's criticism of the cancellation of elections which the FIS was poised to win in 1992. Diplomats say they are aware of the dangers of propping up a regime tainted with charges of corruption and human rights abuses of the kind levelled at French forces in the 1950s. However, they say France is better placed than its allies to see the dangers. "America is still paralysed by its trauma in Iran," an official said.

Emergence of an Iranian-style regime would cause upheaval in the region and send thousands of "boat people" to France and Spain, they argue. To avert this, France is pouring in aid to help to alleviate the poverty that has earned support for the FIS. Mokdad Sifi, the Algerian Prime Minister, yesterday invited the fundamentalists to help to organise fresh elections. "You are demanding elections, so come and help us to organise them," he said on Algiers radio.

London meeting, page 2  
Leading article, page 15  
Photograph, page 18



An Algerian reading out a communiqué on behalf of his companions at the Folembay barracks in northern France. The men, suspected of being Islamic fundamentalists, are being held as part of the security measures taken after the murder of five Frenchmen in Algiers

## Malaysian sect pays penalty of politics

FROM BILL TARRANT IN KUALA LUMPUR

AT A gathering of his disciples on the Islamic New Year on June 11, Ashaari Muhammad, the leader of the banned al-Arqam mystical Sufi sect, outlined his plan to take power in Malaysia.

For him, it was the fulfilment of an ancient prophecy. For the government of multiracial Malaysia, it was the talk of a religious fanatic.

Under a sweeping ban announced by Malaysia's religious authorities on Friday, al-Arqam, which claims 100,000 followers in Malaysia and many more elsewhere, can no longer operate the 27 schools it has set up in the country or its many businesses.

A senior South-East Asian diplomat said Malaysia decided to move against al-Arqam now because "Ashaari crossed the political line". He said: "There is a very clear line about what is expected of a religious organisation. You cannot talk politics and say you have a direct line to God."

Officials at Malaysia's Islamic Centre say they have transcripts of Mr Ashaari describing how the movement will take over Malaysia, then Indonesia and finally Central Asia. According to the group's literature, a great revival will begin in South-East Asia that will carry the "black banner" of the new Islam to a messiah who will appear in Uzbekistan just before the Last Judgment Day. The government may have

taken too literally some of the sect's more mystical pronouncements.

At a news conference on Friday, Mahatir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, compared Mr Ashaari with David Koresh, the Branch Davidian leader who died along with his followers in a siege and fire at his commune in Waco, Texas.

Mr Ashaari, who has outraged officials by saying he is more popular than Dr Mahatir, has been living in exile in Thailand since 1988, after his teachings were first banned in Malaysia. He left Thailand for Amman, Jordan, on July 25, after Thailand declined to renew his visa. In an interview yesterday with *The Star*, he vowed to return to Malaysia and sue the Prime Minister. (Reuters)

□ Bangkok: Thai newspapers attacked Malaysia's decision to outlaw the sect. The *Bangkok Post* said the "dictatorial decree" could force it to go underground, "laying the foundation for a more radical movement". The *Nation* said that Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, had launched a "vendetta" against al-Arqam after the group backed a rival political candidate for the post of Dr Mahatir's deputy. Singapore and Indonesia have followed Kuala Lumpur's lead and banned the movement as well. (AFP)



Zabidi Mohammad, al-Arqam's lawyer, vowing in Kuala Lumpur that he would sue the government for "smeared the sacred name" of the sect

## Christopher urges Israel and Syria to end violence

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

ISRAEL and Syria yesterday exchanged bitter recriminations over a week of violence in southern Lebanon while Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, flew between the two attempting to end five months of deadlock in peace negotiations.

Their dispute was in contrast to relations between Israel and Jordan, whose leaders will open a new crossing today between the two countries, which last month ended a 46-year state of war. The crossing will be at Araba, between Eilat and Aqaba.

Mr Christopher was expected to urge President As-

sad of Syria to use his influence in Lebanon to rein in the pro-Iranian Hezbollah organisation. Before leaving Jerusalem for Damascus, Mr Christopher called on all sides to exercise restraint. "My main aim is to prevent this round of violence from cycling and causing damage to the peace process," he said.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, rebuked Syria, which he said knew the Iranian-backed group had intended to attack Israeli civilian targets. Mr Peres said such incidents could further endanger the deadlocked peace talks with Syria. Hezbollah rocket attacks

into northern Israel on Friday and Saturday wounded three Israeli children. Two Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon were killed in a Hezbollah raid on Saturday. Hezbollah said it was avenging an Israeli air raid last week in which seven Lebanese died.

President Weizman of Israel yesterday inaugurated direct telephone links with Jordan by inviting King Hussein to Jerusalem. Their conversation was broadcast live on Israel's army radio.

□ Bonn: Germany will open an office in Jericho today to co-ordinate a \$111 million aid programme in the area. (AFP)

## Punks in Hanover rampage

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SEVERAL hundred punk rockers went on the rampage at the weekend, fighting police and vowing to destroy the city to mark their "Chaos Day".

More than 250 were detained after violent clashes with police on Saturday in which at least seven officers were injured. Pamphlets distributed throughout Germany had called for Hanover to be turned into "dust and ashes" over two days of chaos against the "police and bourgeois bigwigs".

In east Germany, about 500 people protested at the former Nazi camp at Buchenwald against a neo-Nazi riot there two weeks ago. (Reuters)

## Woman's nightmares lead to mother's conviction

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

RECURRENT nightmares in which her dead sister pleaded for justice led an Indiana woman to accuse her mother of killing her younger sister 25 years ago.

Last week Anna Vega was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for killing her daughter in 1969, based on the testimony of her other daughter, Margarita Booth.

Mrs Booth, who was eight at the time, had suppressed the memory of seeing her sister, Anna Marie Arguello, two, beaten and brutalised to death by their mother at their home in Frankfurt, Indiana.

Mrs Booth said vivid nightmares of "close-up shots of

Anna Marie's face, pleading with me" forced her to come forward. "My purpose in telling was to make the nightmares go away and to fulfil a promise I had made to my sister when I witnessed her death," she told the court.

Mrs Vega, 52, who faces up to ten years in prison, claimed that the child had died of natural causes and was buried secretly because she and her husband feared being deported to Mexico.

As a punishment for bed-wetting, the child was allegedly beaten and forced to spend a day in a cold bath. Mrs Booth said she saw her stepfather, Luis Vega, carry

away Anna Marie's body. Mrs Booth said that testifying was "very hard for me because it was going against everything that had been totally ingrained to me from the time I was a child, and that was 'Don't tell'".

Defence lawyers argued that Mrs Booth had invented her "recovered memory" out of spite because Mrs Vega had refused to support her when she accused her stepfather, now dead, of molesting her.

Mrs Vega's nine other children, including three in prison, supported their mother and refused to accept Mrs Booth's account.

## Kohl irks ally over coalition prospects

Bonn: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister who is also leader of the liberal Free Democrats, junior partners in the Bonn coalition, criticised Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, for saying a grand coalition with the Social Democratic Party (SPD) was a theoretical possibility. The Free Democrats have been mauled in several regional elections this year and there is a general election in October.

Dr Kinkel said he found it incomprehensible that Herr Kohl should even toy with the idea of a pact between his Christian Democratic Party (CDU) and the SPD. Allies and opponents of Herr Kohl have been left confused by his unexpected remarks. However, that has not prevented the SPD from hailing them as an endorsement of its suitability to govern and as a sign that the Chancellor does not believe the CDU can win. (Reuters)

## Taiwan détente

Taipei: Taiwan and China have achieved a breakthrough in their laborious process of détente. After eight days of talks here, they reached an agreement to repatriate hijackers, breaking a deadlock that had marred previous meetings. (Reuters)

## Slav lament

Moscow: The Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, 75, who recently returned from exile, has likened the splitting of Russia from the other Slav states of Ukraine and Belarus to the division of Germany and says it should not last. (Reuters)

## Wife leaves

Lima: President Fujimori's wife, Susana Higuchi, who has political ambitions and whose marriage is said to be rocky, has moved out of Peru's presidential palace after Congress passed a law barring the President's family from standing for office. (AFP)

## Fund chief held

Moscow: Russian tax police investigating Sergei Mavromi, head of the troubled MMM investment fund who was detained last week, have been authorised to hold him for ten more days, officials here said. (Reuters)

## Cheating riot

Dhaka: Thirty people were injured in western Bangladesh when students demanding the right to cheat in university entry tests fought with police. More than 4,000 students have been expelled for cheating since exams started. (AFP)

## Gambia purge

Banjul: Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh, who seized power in The Gambia last month, has launched a morality purge with a round-up of prostitutes and cannabis smokers. Men with dreadlocks are having their heads shaved. (Reuters)

## Hanging call

Dhaka: Muslim fanatics said they would march on parliament to call for the hanging of Taslima Nasreen, the feminist author accused of criticising Islam. Demonstrations will also be held across the country. (AP)

## Leap of faith

Stockholm: Ninni Hagsten, 84, became the world's oldest first-time parachutist and said she would not mind jumping again. The woman, who is blind, leapt from a helicopter in a tandem jump. (AP)

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## Aid workers fear famine will be Rwanda's next ordeal

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



Shalikashvili visited Goma

SEVENTY British troops were expected in Rwanda yesterday, as the United Nations forecast that famine was the next horror in store for the country.

The British military contingent is part of a planned 600-strong force that will provide medical, logistical and technical aid for the UN mission there. The engineers and medical personnel will join about 60 British troops who have been in northwest Rwanda since last Tuesday. They have set up field hospitals and repaired bridges and vehicles for the UN.

The United States has, meanwhile, made clear that it will not take part in the Rwandan peace-keeping operation. General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a short visit to Goma in Zaire yesterday: "We are here to assist with the humanitarian effort. We are not here to be part of Unamir

(the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda)." In Goma, 330 American soldiers are providing logistical support for humanitarian efforts to cope with the 850,000 Rwandan refugees in the area.

General Shalikashvili later left for Kigali, the Rwandan capital, where he was expected to meet General Paul Kagame, the head of the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front. He said he hoped to discuss the repatriation of Rwandan refugees. The general was accompanied by Tipper Gore, the wife of Al Gore, the US Vice-President.

The spectre of famine in Rwanda has arisen because crops have not been gathered or fields tilled, a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report said, adding: "The death toll may be much higher than the earlier estimates of 500,000."

"Given the scale and magnitude of the humanitarian crisis in

Rwanda, the international community is urged to intensify all efforts to restore peace and draw up practical plans for an urgent, and co-ordinated action for large-scale mobilisation of relief and rehabilitation assistance," the FAO said. Unless the world mounted a drive to restore Rwanda's agriculture, the country might depend on foreign food handouts for years, it added.

Other UN officials reported that 17.5 tonnes of food - the first big shipment for hundreds of thousands of hungry Rwandan refugees - arrived in the Zairean border town of Bukavu on Saturday. Three more planes were expected. Trevor Page, of the World Food Programme, said that at least 23 per cent of refugees faced severe malnutrition and the programme needed a minimum of 50 tonnes of food a day for the Bukavu refugee population.



Mrs Gore holding a sick Rwanda orphan



# Tibetans mourn lost legacy after China restores palace

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING



Dalai Lama: remains in exile in India

HEAVY security is in force in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, for a ceremony tomorrow to mark the completion of nearly five years of renovation work on the Potala palace, Tibetan Buddhism's holiest place, though the man whose name is most connected with the towering edifice, the Dalai Lama, remains in exile in India.

The ceremony comes as the Chinese leadership takes a special interest in the development of Tibet, which Peking insists is an integral part of China. But Tibetans in exile accuse it of eroding Tibetan culture through its economic liberalisation policy which is leading to an influx of Chinese into the Himalayan kingdom.

Chinese leaders refer to the present developments as Tibet's "best period in history". Jiang Zemin, the Chinese President, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, pledged after meetings last month

in Peking to improve further the remote region's still backward economy. However, they also said that they would crush any efforts to "split" Tibet from China.

A senior Tibetan government official, Raidi, said last month that without China's hard-won political stability, which he said was "as precious as eyesight", Tibet could not develop. He also said "a small number of secessionists" were unpopular because of their continuing campaign for an independent Tibet.

Indicating the material well-being of Tibetans under Chinese rule, he said: "More and more families have colour TV sets, refrigerators, washing machines and cameras."

Lhaba Puncog, the vice-chairman of Tibet's "people's government", claimed in Lhasa that restoration work on the Potala by more than 200 experts from all

■ Tibetan exiles accuse Peking, which has spent five years renovating Lhasa's sacred Potala palace, of being mainly interested in the money which more Western tourists can bring

over China "had won acclaim at home and abroad". He claimed that the funds had come from China and overseas.

Foreign visitors who have recently visited Lhasa, however, believe that the Potala restoration work has been mainly carried out to enhance the Tibetan capital's tourist potential rather than to promote the Buddhist faith. They said that security personnel now outnumber monks at the holy site. But Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said in Peking: "The repair of the Potala palace is quite a grand project because it is a very important cultural heritage left to us." Mr

Shen also said that the door was always open for a dialogue between Peking and the "Dalai Lama group", but Tibet's spiritual leader must "abolish his activities of splitting the motherland".

The fourteenth Dalai Lama fled to exile in India in 1959 with thousands of followers after an abortive uprising against Chinese forces which occupied Tibet in 1950. In 1959, blood-thirsty Chinese troops shocked Lhasa for three days, prompting China to impose martial law, which was lifted the following year.

Tibetan exiles have claimed that, while restoring the Potala, Chinese authorities had destroyed

an area in front of the temple where the traditional homes of Tibet's former noble class once stood; they said this old architecture was irreplaceable. They also said that shop blocks, where much of the business is conducted by Chinese, had been erected there. "Rents are high there and there is a great deal of scope for commerce," said a Western visitor. "Lhasa," according to a recent Chinese visitor to the capital, "is beginning to look just like any other Chinese city."

Another recent visitor said that many new images of the Buddha have been sculpted to replace those that have been destroyed or missing. "But the Tibetans do not want to pray to them because they do not contain the Buddhist relics the old ones had," the visitor said. Amnesty International, the human rights watchdog, recently criticised China for jailing five Tibetan pro-independence activists for up to 15 years. It said last

week that the sentences were "totally disproportionate to the crime they allegedly committed".

The Tibetan exiles also fear that their younger generation is being weaned away from traditional beliefs by "imported culture": flooding in from China. Dozens of karaoke bars, popular with the Chinese migrants, and discotheques, a hit with Tibetan youth, have mushroomed in Lhasa.

However, another visitor said that Tibetan culture was "incredibly resilient and should survive in the long term".

China still makes it difficult for resident correspondents to visit Lhasa and has barred more foreign news organisations from travelling to Tibet to report on the Potala project: only three foreign television crews, including CNN, are being allowed to attend tomorrow's ceremony. Mr Shen, however, promised that in future "we will invite more correspondents to pay a visit to Tibet".

## Cuban riots add to Washington's Caribbean woes

BY DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI, IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WASHINGTON was preparing for another crisis in the Caribbean yesterday after President Castro threatened to unleash a flood of refugees on to American shores after the first serious anti-government riots in Havana for 30 years.

Dr Castro, accusing America of fomenting the riot on Friday in which more than a thousand protesters went on the rampage, said: "They want bloody scenes, they want bullets, they want to use the dead as a propaganda tool, to use them as an instrument of intervention in our country."

The last time Dr Castro allowed an exodus from Cuba, about 120,000 people, including many of the criminal population in jail, were allowed to leave in boats for the United States. The Mariel boatlift in 1980 caused a crisis for both countries, but also rid

Dr Castro of many unhappy Cubans.

The imminence of another boatlift comes as the United States plans to lead an international invasion to restore democracy in Haiti, from where a steady number of boat people have been fleeing to Florida.

"I do not want to say there will be another Mariel, but I say that either they impose order and end these provocations or we will stop guarding the coast of the United States," Dr Castro said. He accused America of practising an immigration policy to limit legal Cuban emigrés, while encouraging the illegal flow of boat people. "This is a plan to create unrest and confrontation in our country."

In the past six months Washington has issued only

3,200 immigrant visas to Cubans wishing to join relatives in the United States. But this year more than 5,000 Cubans have crossed the Florida Straits illegally on home-made rafts and flimsy boats.

In Washington, David Johnson, the State Department press officer, said the United States was "deeply concerned" by Dr Castro's statements. "The United States has stated repeatedly that we will not permit Fidel Castro to dictate our immigration policy or to create a replay of the Mariel boatlift, a cynical move on Castro's part in 1980." He added: "We urge the Cuban government to consider carefully all the implications of such incitement."

Among the victims of the 1980 exodus was President Clinton, defeated then in a bid for re-election as Arkansas Governor in part because of opposition to his decision to let the government house Cuban emigrés in his state. That exodus ended when the United States agreed to increase the number of visas issued to Cubans — a policy Dr Castro claims it has failed to honour.

Frida's riots were some of the most serious in Cuba, struggling with its worst economic crisis since the 1959 revolution that brought Dr Castro to power, and where a vast security apparatus has kept dissent in check.

The riot began after troops and police tried to break up a crowd at the port waiting for a ferry that makes the regular



Cuban police flourishing guns as protesters threw stones and bottles at them in two hours of anti-government rioting at Havana's port on Friday

ten-minute trip across Havana Bay, in the hope that it might be hijacked to Miami. Last week at least three ferries were hijacked.

As the authorities moved in, hundreds of anti-government protesters charged down the seafront shouting *Libertad* (freedom). Thirty-five people, including ten policemen, were injured, the newspaper *Juventud Rebelde* said. Yesterday police and Communist Party militants were guarding the waterfront.

President Castro, who flew on Saturday to Colombia to

attend the inauguration of President Samper yesterday, conceded to reporters in Bogotá that part of his Communist-ruled island's population was unhappy. But he claimed that the "immense majority" was behind him.

While Dr Castro was confident of his people's support, Haiti's military leader, Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras, believes that an American-led invasion to restore democracy in his country is inevitable. With that invasion President Clinton would be responsible for considerable bloodshed on

both sides. "A lot of military and civilians will be killed," General Cédras said.

The general, who leads the junta that overthrew President Aristide, told CNN yesterday: "It has been decided to invade and we are awaiting this moment. Our soldiers have sworn to defend our country." He claimed that barracks throughout Haiti were filling with young people eager to start training for a home guard. In Port-au-Prince, the capital, several dozen civilians were seen going through their paces, drilling, saluting and

brandishing sticks as make-believe weapons under the instruction of soldiers. A few women were among their ranks, including one who appeared to be pregnant.

In Washington, the idea that nationalism would spur Haitians to a fierce defence was dismissed as propaganda by William Gray, special adviser on Haiti to Mr Clinton. The Americans are convinced that, if their troops do invade, they will be welcomed as liberators.

For now, invasion is not imminent and may not be

seriously considered until next month. Mr Clinton is preoccupied with trying to push his healthcare reform through Congress to be distracted by a military operation for which there is no enthusiasm.

Besides, Mr Clinton wants troops from other countries to join, but none has been forthcoming. At the weekend, death threats forced diplomats from Argentina and Colombia, two countries which had supported the restoration of democracy, to leave Port-au-Prince for the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

## President's aides voice misgivings over new prosecutor

### Whitewater lawyer rattles Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A worrying development for President Clinton and his staff, the new independent prosecutor in the Whitewater affair says he has not yet decided whether to reopen aspects of the inquiry dealt with by his predecessor.

Kenneth Starr, a former Republican Solicitor-General, said it would be premature for him to decide on such matters, but he promised to conduct the investigation with "no preconceptions at all" and with a determination to be scrupulously fair and objective.

If Mr Starr does decide to go back over old ground, he

might re-examine two important decisions made by Robert Fiske, the former Whitewater independent counsel who was relieved by a panel of three appeal judges on Friday. One finding was that the mysterious death of Vincent Foster last summer was suicide and unrelated to the Whitewater affair. Mr Foster was a White House lawyer who came to Washington with Mr Clinton.

Mr Fiske also concluded that there was no illegality involved in the tip-offs given by Treasury officials to the White House about a possible criminal investigation into a

failed savings and loan institution in Arkansas with links to Mr and Mrs Clinton.

There are misgivings among the President's supporters about Mr Starr's professed impartiality. They say he showed his true colours during a recent televised discussion when he sided with Paula Jones, who has brought a sexual misconduct lawsuit against Mr Clinton.

In another unhappy episode for the Administration, federal investigators are looking into whether Michael Espy, the Agriculture Secretary, and two of his top aides improperly

accepted gifts from America's largest poultry company.

The firm is Tyson Foods Inc. of Arkansas, whose president, Don Tyson, has supported Mr Clinton for many years. The Justice Department and the Agriculture Department are investigating travel, lodging and football tickets given to the officials by Tyson's and the decision to halt new laws for tougher poultry standards.

It emerged last night that the Justice Department has urged Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, to seek independent counsel for the inquiry into the affair.

## Cadet tries to save her hair

New York: Shannon Faulkner, 19, the first female cadet at The Citadel military college in South Carolina, may be able to keep her hair after all (Ben Macintyre writes).

Ms Faulkner's hair trouble began when US District Judge Weston Houck ruled that she, in common with all first-year cadets at The Citadel, must have her head shaved. Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, asked the judge to reconsider, arguing that shaving Ms Faulkner's hair would "altogether denigrate Faulkner's identity as a woman", and he has agreed to ponder the question until Wednesday.

## Battle brewing for Uncle Seven's evil empire

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

Benny Ong, the notorious "Godfather of Chinatown" who ruled New York's Chinese underworld for decades with a combination of violence, crime and guile, has died at the age of 87.

A spokesman for the Hip Sing Association, the secretive organisation of Chinese businessmen controlled by Ong, simply described him as "a very nice old man".

The police and FBI, however, say that for 20 years Ong was controller of a vast criminal network including prostitution, gambling, smuggling, extortion and murder, whose avuncular appearance belied one of the most ruthless criminals in America.

A Senate sub-committee in 1992 called Ong the "Godfather of Chinatown", noting "he has long been associated with organised crime", but in the Chinese community he was widely known as "Uncle Seven", because he was the seventh son of a Chinese peasant. Police insist that

Ong's formal role as adviser-in-chief-for-life of the Hip Sing, the biggest of some 70 "tongs" or fraternal societies that permeate the American-Chinese community, was merely a front for a wide range of criminal activities.

Born in Manchuria in 1907, Benny Ong, whose real name was Kai Sui Ong, came to the United States in 1923 with the avowed intention of becoming, in his own words, "a big shot in the mountain of gold". His first job was in a Chinese laundry, but by the 1930s he had been inducted into the Hip Sing as a street thug and enforcer in New York's drug parlours and gambling dens.

After a fierce gunfight with rival gang members during a routine robbery in 1935, Ong was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment.

The rumour persisted in Chinatown that he had loyally acted as a "fall guy" to protect one of his superiors in Hip Sing, and when he emerged from

prison in 1952 his reputation had grown hugely.

In 1974, he succeeded his brother as head of the tong, but in that same year he was taped by an undercover agent bragging about having bribed officials, police officers and government prosecutors to turn a blind eye to illegal immigrants in his gambling dens.

He was sentenced to a further year in prison, thanks largely to the efforts of District Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, now Mayor of New York.

Ong was loathed by his enemies, but adored by many in Chinatown where he acted as a neighbourhood patron, secretly distributing largesse through the community to enforce discipline and ensure respect. The Hip Sing, based at 16 Pell Street, in the heart of Chinatown, provided the local community with many legitimate services such as credit unions and job opportunities

but, according to police, Ong also acted as head of the Flying Dragons, a street gang favouring Elvis-style clothes and haircuts, which enforced his decrees with spectacular violence.

In recent years the elderly Uncle Seven, who was suffering from prostate cancer and pneumonia, had begun to relax his control over the Chinese underworld. After the death of his second wife, he married an actress and eventually moved into a small flat over a bookshop in Chinatown.

He was taken to hospital in New York under a false name two weeks ago and died on Saturday morning.

The Hip Sing will hold three days of public ceremonies later this month to mark the death of one of Chinatown's best-loved and most infamous figures. After that, police predict, the fierce, secret and probably bloody struggle for supremacy in Chinatown and control of Ong's vast criminal legacy will begin in earnest.

A TIME TO BE BORN  
A TIME TO DIE  
A TIME TO WOUND  
A TIME TO HEAL  
A TIME TO PULL DOWN  
A TIME TO BUILD UP  
A TIME TO WEEP  
A TIME TO LAUGH  
A TIME TO MOURN  
A TIME TO DANCE  
A TIME TO GAIN  
A TIME TO LOSE  
A TIME TO KEEP  
A TIME TO DISCARD  
A TIME TO TEAR  
A TIME TO MEND  
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Forget the stock market — serious students of economic trends should keep a close eye on the sales of garden statuary

The BBC television news recently offered a tantalising glimpse of how we might, with less boredom and incredulity than at present, set about measuring the economic recovery. I give you, with all its ramifications and derivatives, the GSI: the Garden Statuary Index.

The bulletin, searching as usual for something more photogenic than a Treasury official, had decided on a naked nymph. Classical buttocks alone, some canny editor felt, could prevent the rush for the off-switch at the word "economic news". So off went the crew to a company making Greco-Roman-Renaissance-repro conversation-pieces, and recorded its ecstatic MD talking about his full order books. In deadpan style, the reporter referred to the wares as items "not usually regarded as necessities".

It was a fine idea. For, face it, if you don't have a stone nymph, you can get by but if you do have both disposable cash and a fit of optimism, frivolity and aesthetics are the first things to return. They were also — here is the peculiar

fascination of the GSI system of economic diagnosis — one of the last things to depart. If you ignore the useful things and concentrate on the froth, you get a whole new view of the consumer cycle. Remember, for instance, how the recession began? The froth didn't blow off first, not quite. People stopped buying houses, but they made the DIY, home-extension and designer kitchen-fitting businesses briefly boom. The thought-bubbles were almost visible over the land: "We deserve to sell and move, we can't, it's not fair, we're owed a new kitchen at least." So, for a while, home improvements surged — unaccountably against the high street trend.

So did odd areas like shops selling expensive baby clothes in country towns. I met one mystified owner early in the slump whose take had virtually doubled. She finally worked out that what was

happening was that the former fat-cats who used to shop in London were now getting mean about the fare, and looking around locally.

In that early period, things went swimmingly for companies selling "feel-good" frivolities, and the longer it went on the more the cheaper feelgoods sold. Hawkin of Harleston boomed with mail-order balancing paper butterflies and hair-growing soap cats; luck stayed for a long while with popular jewellers like the lamented Rainers. I met the great Gerald himself during what other retailers said was a thin Christmas, and found him bullish, pointing out that baubles in flash heavy boxes cheered people up and therefore sold against the trend. Frivolity



LIBBY PURVES

flourished until late on; it just got cheaper and cheaper, as gift shops became card shops and flippant socks began to do better for 99p on market stalls than at £4.99 from chi-chi footloose. The instinct to spend scarce money on gewgaws is as old and irresistible as the medieval habit of buying tawdry lace.

Which is why the GSI is so important. Early in a consumer recession, the effects are patchy and eccentrically marked and hard to spot: one symptom indeed is the rise in the GSI. "Can't afford a holiday, what say we spend the time on the garden, get a nymph in?" So when gewgaw industries start to dip, panic buttons could be more firmly pressed. And when once again the GSI

risers, you should not become over-excited, but wait for more solid areas to move. It could be that each of the cherubim sold is instead of a new car, or a move. A cheer-up, consolation buy.

There are other indices similar to the GSI in pinpointing confidence. For example, the FAL, or Figurative Art Law. This is the principle that in periods of optimism, people buy abstract art for silly prices, reasoning that it may mean nothing in the long run, but they fancy it, and fancy a gamble, and who knows, it could be an investment. Come the recession and associated insecurities, art dealers find that buyers return to modestly priced watercolour scenes of recognisable things.

The thought-bubble here reads that hell, an orange blob is only a blob, and might shortly be an unfashionable and

worthless blob. Whereas a likeness of Iken church is a joy forever, and if it comes to the crunch someone else will buy it. There should be a sliding comparative index published of the number of lobster-pots and carthorses depicted in paintings sold, as against blobs, swirls and collages. The BBOBI — or Black Boats On Beaches Index — has promise, I think.

There are dozens of other areas for study, if you really want to chart consumer confidence. Take the AL, or Anorak Index, based on the principle that when they sense hard times coming people buy longline anoraks rather than blouses. Or the DNL, or Doorstop Novel Indicator, which causes long books, however turgid, to sell best in recessions because they feel like bargains. There are dozens: for a fee, business editors may form an orderly queue at my door. The length of the queue (or BEDDI, Business Editors Depression and Desperation Index) can only be another reliable indicator of the length of the slump.

## The home alone husbands

Why are men so helpless when their wives leave town for a few days?

Alice Thomson investigates

He prowls the streets in a crumpled suit and beer-stained shirt. At night he lives off scotch eggs and pasties; in the early mornings he can be seen frequenting laundrettes and during the day he compares notes with fellow sufferers in swanky Italian restaurants. The milk in his fridge has curdled, the plants have all withered and the whisky glasses are stacking up on the floor.

Home Alone men are everywhere this August. Any wife who is not manacled to her desk with a full-time job has been fleeing the sticky city fumes, traffic wardens, rail strikes and fickle air conditioning and has departed with the children to paddle and eat ice creams in cooler climes or stay with the mother-in-law.

At first these men can't get over their luck. As they wave goodbye to their children, the dog, hamsters and rollerskates, weeks of bachelorhood stretch enticingly before them. Their wives may telephone every evening but there will be no more arguments about toast crumbs in the bed, no rushed last drinks in the pub, no babies dribbling down their ties. They can sit peacefully in their boxer shorts mixing pizza and chocolate ice cream and cutting their toenails while watching *Terminator Two*.

Frenchmen have got Home Aloneing down to a fine art. Traditionally they send the wife and children off to Brittany or the South for July and join them in August after a few weeks of frolicking with their mistress in a half-empty, steaming Paris. "Frenchmen know how to spoil themselves



Succumbing to temptation — Tom Ewell, who has been left to fend for himself in New York, meets Marilyn Monroe, the girl upstairs in the classic comedy *The Seven Year Itch*

when their wives are away," says Matthew Wright, an English banker married to a French journalist in Paris. His wife is at the moment staying with her mother and the children in Bordeaux. "You

see them queuing up in the delicatessens, stocking up on foie gras, smoked salmon and caviar. They get their hair cut, go to their favourite restaurants and pay the cleaner double to clear up their mess.

Many of them are quite upset that increasingly their wives are having to stay in Paris to work.

New Yorkers know all about Home Alone man and Tom Ewell immortalised him in the film *The Seven Year Itch*. Ewell, deserted by his wife and son one scorching summer, is forced to live off peanut butter, jelly sandwiches and whisky sours. His secretary asks if she can iron his shirts and his boss tries to entice him into poker, cigars and a night on the town — but after a day of bachelorhood, he is already missing his wife's nagging.

Then Marilyn Monroe moves in upstairs. She is the kind of young woman who keeps her underwear in the fridge and stirs her Martinis with a cuticle pusher. "Oh come now, we are both summer bachelors, let's not be naive," says the plumber as Ewell tries to restrain himself. "But you've got four kids. Something happens to men in this town in the summer, it's disgraceful," retorts Ewell before succumbing to the heat and Miss Monroe.

Dr Robin Skynner, a psychologist and author (with

John Ciesse) of *Families and How to Survive Them*, says: "It gives men a chance to be really juvenile, raid the fridge, watch videos all night, wear that revolting check jacket and get bored of going down the pub."

Their forefathers may have sent the family off to the foothills of Simla in the days of the British Raj, but most British men find it difficult to cope with Home Aloneing. They tell you that they are new men but their cooking extends no further than making a salad dressing and grilling fish-fingers on a Saturday night. And while they can change a nappy in a crisis, few know where the spare washing powder is kept.

After a week of toil-in-the-bag and Indian takeaways they can no longer stomach the smell of the kitchen. They make one attempt at ironing their shirt and arrive late at work with it already drenched and clinging to them. Accord-

ing to Skynner's they probably resort to the dry cleaners. The company cleans 30 per cent more shirts in July and August.

Robert Hughes, a City analyst, had to get his wife to leave him enough food in the freezer, to last a fortnight when she went to Norfolk for the school holidays. "It is great not having someone screeching at you when you forget to use the bathmat, but on the other hand there is no one to tell you when you have got dandruff on your collar. After 15 years of married life, I've forgotten how to be a bachelor and flirt successfully and I spend more and more time throwing myself at the mercy of friends or in my club," he says.

Nicholas Wood, the chief political correspondent for *The Times*, has been left alone for a week while his wife and five children have gone to stay with his mother-in-law in the Midlands. "My wife left me a

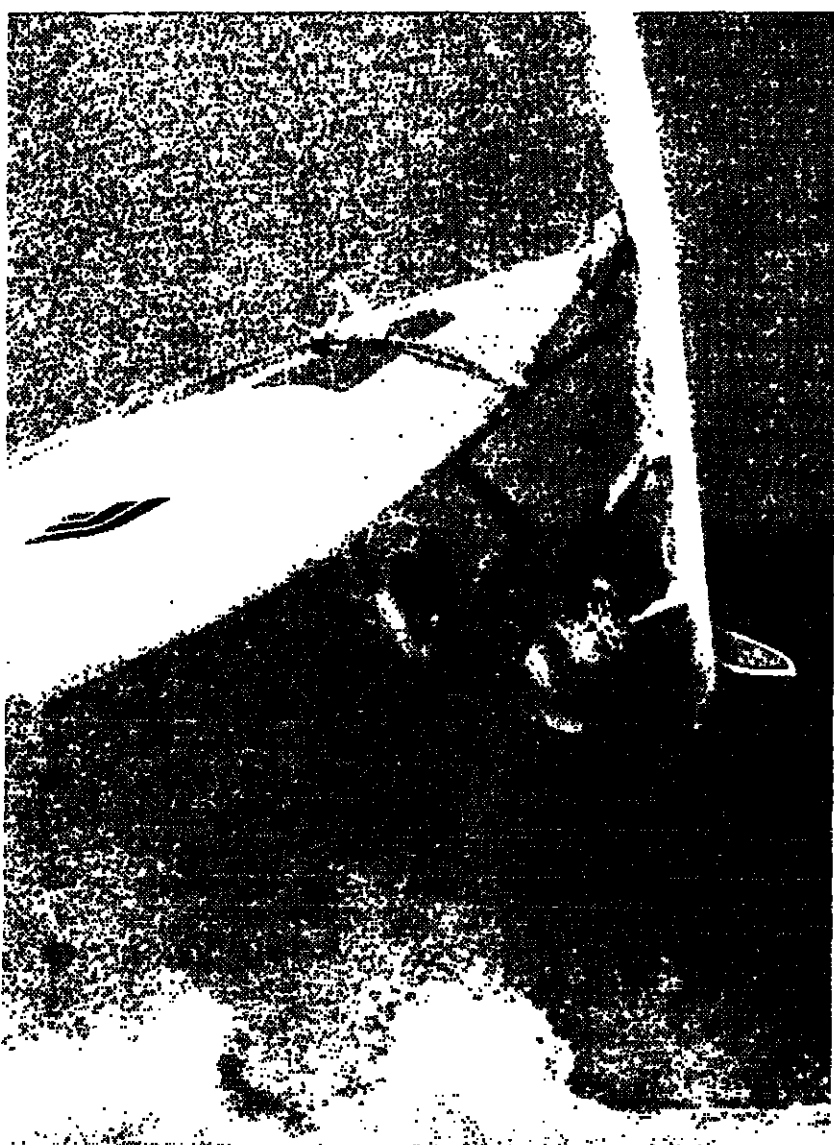
pizza, eight sausages, two packets of bacon, one of which had passed its sell-by date, half a dozen eggs and a full freezer, which I haven't opened as I can't cook," he says.

"After two nights of sausages and baked beans I tried poached eggs. Forty-five minutes later they were still refusing to cook. They ended up like two squash balls. Last night I gave up and had an Indian takeaway."

"You think it is an escape from domestic life but it is difficult coming home late at night to an empty house. I have run out of clothes but I haven't tackled the washing machine yet. The bed hasn't been made all week and there is unwashed sportswear scattered all over the house."

Linda Kelsey, editor of *She* magazine, says most men get sick of the squalor after a few days. "Women still tend to organise the social life, do the washing, pick the children up from school as well as going to work. Men get lonely on their own because they don't know how to organise anything. The best thing they could do in the evenings is a cookery course."

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Simple solutions for households under siege from the doorstep

## How to get rid of a salesman

OF all the villains in the suburban rogues' gallery — noisy dogs, Sunday morning lawn mowers, Jehovah's Witnesses — none is so feared, so widely reviled, as the door-to-door salesman. A slammed door should be enough to repel the invader, but we are too soft.

Once he has wheedled his way into your home, getting rid of an unwanted salesman seldom proves as easy as removing that stubborn wine-stain with the new Vakyoom-wash, just over from the States and yours for only £699, plus VAT. So Mr and Mrs Generalis, of Bartley Green, Birmingham, have recently discovered.

It was 6 o'clock in the evening and Kate Generalis, a woman with a lovely vacuum cleaner, was making dinner. A ring at the door announced the presence of Mr Sarbjett Singh, and his Kirby super cleaner. Seconds later he was in full swing, demonstrating the machine's unparalleled powers.

Kate fed the children. She put them to bed. Mr Generalis returned from work. The clock in the hall struck nine o'clock. Still Mr Singh was cleaning. Finally, in desperation, the family pretended that a rela-

tive was ill and departed en masse. When they returned to their spotless home some time later, Mr Singh was gone. Kirby's managing director, Ayo Olasinde, declared himself "shocked".

So what is the solution? "The safest thing is not to let anyone into your home at all



GILES COREN

without an appointment," says Tony Northcott, of the Institute of Trading Standards. "Once a salesman is in, you can only make it clear that you will buy nothing at all, under any circumstances, however long he stays. If you ask him to leave and he refuses, you can always phone the police."

According to Sergeant David Jenkins, of the Hornsey District Crime Prevention Office: "Once a salesman has refused to leave, he becomes a

trespasser. You are perfectly entitled to call the police." When the man in blue arrives, what can he do? "We couldn't charge him if he was just sitting there on your sofa," admits Sergeant Jenkins.

"Our role would be to prevent a breach of the peace. It is down to the homeowner to remove the salesman. Unless, of course, the resident is an 80-year-old woman or something."

According to the columnist Mary Killeen: "It's all part of the English idea of fair play. We think 'Oh, poor chap'. The best thing to avoid embarrassment is to go to the loo and ring a friend and get them to call. Then you can say 'Sorry, it's an emergency, I have to go'."

Time, however, may provide a solution of its own. Chris Mason Paul is a salesman for Kleeneze, earning £130,000 a year. His method is the soft sell. "I just drop a catalogue through the door, and come back two days later. If the catalogue is on the doorstep it means the customer doesn't want anything."

The very fact that people like Mrs Generalis are saved the embarrassment of saying "no" seems to make them more willing customers. It is a

peculiarly English sensitivity, and Kleeneze have spotted it. Meanwhile, the endemic national fear of causing offence to anyone makes us easy prey for more ruthless predators.

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Farewell little waifs with barely-there faces — scarlet women and high glamour are back in town

# Look out, the reds are coming

**R**ecently superwaif Kate Moss revealed in *Vogue* magazine that her most essential makeup item is her deep red lipstick. How times have changed. Only a season or so ago, Ms Moss was happy to bare all (cosmetically speaking), the nearest thing to makeup on her face being a dab of clear Vaseline (on lips, cheeks and eyelids). The neo-natural look, which turned modern beauty about-face left women the world over wondering, "Do I really have to go out without makeup?"

Fashion, however, works as a series of reactions and counter-reactions. As the models on the international catwalks wandered along with their barely-there faces, the female fashion editors who filled the front row smiled back with lips painted every shade of bold, blood red.

Fashion's front row is possibly the best barometer of change — it is made up of women who work, live, and breathe fashion, hooked on its ever-changing momentum. They were the first to lower their headlines, and inevitably the first to shorten them. They all sported Superga plimsolls when the rest of the world was wearing high heels. At the recent couture collections their heels were higher than anyone else's. They are ahead of their time.

The rumblings have been heard for a while, but now the full-blown glamour explosion has hit the fashion scene with



Fashion  
by  
IAIN R.  
WEBB

gusto. With such a radical change in silhouette and fabrication it is necessary to reappraise the beauty routine. This new, slick fashion statement requires an equally glamorous face.

"You really can't divide the fashion from the face," says Lisa Armstrong, the assistant editor of *Vogue*. "When you get really shiny, hard fabrics and sleek tailoring you have to do something to the face to bring it into focus. The natural face just doesn't work. It's a bit of fun to reintroduce colour into your life."

What makes this new glamour statement different is that there are no set rules. It is not necessary to spend hours painting on a mask of makeup. Just a touch of red lipstick will suffice.

"Red lipstick is definitely back this autumn, but it's not necessarily the end of the natural look," says Nancy Roberts, the health and beauty editor of *Marie Claire*. "This time around red lips can be used as a splash of colour against glowing skin and understated eyes. It's a look anyone can wear — whether you prefer a perfectly painted red mouth, or just a stain of colour as if you'd been eating red berries."

**I**f the idea of wearing clothes in vibrant, clashing colours, as shown at the autumn/winter collections, fills you with fear, then the simple application of red lipstick alone will assure you remain apace with fashion.

"I've worn black and navy for so long I can't cope with wearing anything colourful," Ms Armstrong says. "Wearing red lipstick makes me feel very glamorous and people really do notice it. What is great about this new beauty look is that you can wear a plain black trouser suit, and just add red lips. The whole look hinges on just that."

In the glamour stakes the only alternative to red lips are smoky eyes. These evoke an even more decadent mood. Black or dark grey shadows give the strongest effect, but it is possible to add a hint of colour with a touch of red, or violet smudged around the edges. Wear smoky eyes with a more natural lip colour. Red lips look most striking with fairly blank eyes. Combining the two will create pure drama.

The rise of a more polished, made-up face is the icing on the cake for the return of glamour, but although the motifs (the red lips, the smoky eyes) may have been seen before, the attitude has not.

"Glamour redefines itself with every generation," Ms Armstrong says. "There is a certain novelty in wearing high heels and visible makeup. It may seem a cliché but now women are doing it in an ironic way. At the very least it shows that women cannot live by Vaseline alone."



MAKEUP artist Stephanie Jenkins explains how to create the new glamour look:

**BASE:** Avoid foundation. Use a tinted moisturiser, which is especially good at this time of year. It offers a fresher appearance. Match the moisturiser with your skin tone. When purchasing it is very important to check the colour in daylight. Apply to the entire face with your fingertips and then dust with a very light covering of translucent powder using a big, soft brush.

**EYES:** Cover the eyelids with tinted moisturiser and fix with a dusting of powder. Apply a light covering of tawny, reddish-brown blusher powder with a soft brush, sweeping the colour across the whole upper lid up to the

eyebrow, following the natural curve of the brow. To apply the main colour use an applicator if desired but I prefer to use a finger. Cover the entire upper lid (follow the curve of the socket line) with a dark grey or black eyeshadow (build up the intensity with several applications). This can be smudged underneath the eye with the little finger (or a sponge applicator) keeping the colour close to the eye, to create a smoky effect. Use a black kohl pencil on the inside of the lower lid for added contrast, and finish the look with several coats of black mascara — combed through between applications to prevent the lashes clogging. Individual false eye-

lashes are very easy to apply, to add extra thickness if desired. Only use them on the outside corner of the upper lashes.

**BROWS:** Softly define the brows with matt brown eyeshadow using a small, firm brush, extending the brow just beyond the outside corner of the eye. Shape the brow by combing through in an outward curve with a clean eyebrow brush.

**LIPS:** Create a lipline using a lip pencil in a shade lighter than your favoured lipstick (this will also help to prevent lipstick bleeding and smudging). Work from the inside of the lip

outwards, using the side of the pencil. Fill in colour with a brush, and always blot with a tissue. The lips can be left matt if desired, but you can add a little clear gloss in the centre of the lips for an extra touch of glamour.

**BLUSHER:** Depending on your complexion, use either bronzer powder (for dark, tanned skin) brushed across the cheekbone, or a tawny red powder blush (for paler skin) brushed just underneath the cheekbone from the ear, following the line of the cheekbone. Imagine a line dropped vertically from the outside corner of the eye — do not take the colour any further.

PHOTOGRAPH: Rod Nissen-Petzer. Makeup: Stephanie Jenkins. Hair: James Dodds.

## SMOULDERING EYES



A touch of decadence with an otherwise fresh-faced look. From Michael Kors (top) and Bill Bliss

## LIVELY LIPS



Essential glamour — a shot of blood-red lip colour. From Isaac Mizrahi, Calvin Klein, Mark Jacobs

## THE TOP TEN SIMPLY REDS

**Mon Rouge**, Paloma Picasso, £16  
**Red Hot (552)**, Mac, £8, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1  
**No Question Red**, Shiseido, £11.50, (071 792 1575)  
**Rouge Pur (9)**, Yves Saint Laurent, £14.50  
**Rouge Essential**, Lancôme, £11.50  
**Love That Red**, Revlon, £7.25  
**Romantic Red**, Almay, £4.95  
**Rouge Rouge**, (03), Bourjois, £3.50  
**Blackcurrant**, Colourings, £2.85, Body Shop branches nationwide  
**Red 160**, Shu Uemura, £9, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent St, W1; Space N.K. 41 Earham St, WC2

● Unless otherwise stated, lipsticks are available from large department stores and selected chemists nationwide

## FAMOUS DESIGNER CLOTHES UP TO 80% OFF

■ The 1994 edition of the best-selling *Ultimate Bargain Hunter Handbook*, now reveals 1158 little-known outlets in the UK where you can buy top quality and famous brand name products at low, low prices. Expect discounts of up to 80% on clothes & shoes (including designer labels), perfumes, fabrics, china, books, cosmetics, sportswear, lingerie, knitwear, jeans, carpets, furniture and much, much more. Shop in person or order by post. You will also discover a huge range of slight seconds, clearance lines, if not deluged.

## Philip Howard



**You can quote me if you absolutely must, but please spare me the pesky punctuation**

Quote-unquote are terms of journalistic jargon that have recently passed into general use. A quotation between flying commas is needed to add inside authenticity and immediacy to most newspaper "stories". One of the most vacuous jobs of a reporter used to be to wait at the check-out counters of the biggest supermarket in town, and ask those emerging with loaded trolleys for an instant quote summarising their reactions to the Budget. Since few of those coming out had yet heard what was in the Budget, and had other things on their minds, such as whether they had remembered the cat food, the formula was unproductive. Reporters may occasionally have given up and made the worst of a bad job by manufacturing pithy quotes for imaginary housewives, so confirming public suspicion of the rat-like cunning of journalists.

Too many quotes, especially in newspapers, make print look like a spotted bow tie

The increasingly sophisticated use of pictures in newspapers means that any quote now needs a face to go with it. Television and radio microphones cannot be bluffed with imaginary quotes so easily. This has made the invention of fictional quotes more difficult and dangerous. Long before it became a cliché — "Give me a quote" — "Thurs the quote of the week", "May I quote you on that" — quotation was an honourable activity. It was one of the earliest forms of education. All early teaching was by word of mouth and memory. When books were rare, it was important for the advancement of learning for the literate to be able to recite important works, particularly the scriptures, Homer, Virgil, Racine, Milton and Shakespeare verbatim. That was the only way that the unlettered could learn them.

Old-fashioned grammar school education consisted largely of learning to quote by rote. We learnt "sayings" of 50 lines of English and 50 lines of Latin or Greek a week, and recited them to our parents and masters. Some of it stuck for ever. Today's schoolchildren have far more to learn and are better taught in many ways than we ever were. But they miss something of value and a consolation for the inevitable loneliness of bits of life by not having learnt to quote by heart chunks of great literature.

The human brain has so much more to handle than the facility for learning by heart may have atrophied. There are dictionaries of quotations and data banks, though a good memory for an apt quotation is still a pleasant and useful asset. But any curriculum even in the use of the computer and the video, should keep a bit of quotation and recitation.

Thatcher may have saved Britain, but the middle classes may still send Prince Charming to the ball

## A party staring over the precipice

Many of us begin to feel some sympathy for the Tories who now remind one so poignantly of the ugly sisters when they discovered that the glass slipper fitted Cinderella. Indeed, Tony Blair seems to be Cinderella and Prince Charming rolled into one. Let me therefore, in the honest spirit of Job's comforters, add a reflection to the existing discomfiture of the Government.

In August 1931 Ramsay MacDonald formed a national government: in October he fought a general election against the Labour Party whose leader he had been until two months before. The national government won a majority of 497 in a parliament of 615 members. The Labour Party held only 52 seats. This was the heaviest election defeat in British democratic history.

In that 1931 general election, the Labour Party polled 6.6 million votes, which was just over 30 per cent of the votes cast. In the latest Gallup poll, the Conservatives have the support of 23 per cent of the electorate. They would, therefore, have to recover 7 per cent of national support before they reached Labour's 1931 level. Despite all their hopes of recovery, the Tories stand at the edge of an electoral precipice as threatening as the north face of the Eiger.

There are three basic reasons why the Conservatives are in such spectacular peril. The first is that they repeated the American mistake of following a strong and decisive leader with a leader of the Minor League. John Major is the George Bush of Britain. Both of them have personal merits; yet both represent a scaling down of leadership and a modulation of party doctrine into the minor key.

The second reason is that the Tories have been in power too long. The energy they developed in opposition in the 1970s has been used up.

The leaders who framed the policies of the 1980s are now extinct volcanoes letting off smoke signals among themselves in the House of Lords. Their new ideas have either been put into effect or abandoned. The country, after 15 years, is tired with a performance which has itself deteriorated. You can get away with almost anything with the British except boring them.

The third and greatest reason is that Labour has now made great inroads into the support of the middle class. Britain nowadays is a middle-class country. The Conservatives have been the party of that class, and as the class has grown and become dominant, the Conservatives have been dominant in general elections, with two postwar runs of 13 and now 15 years in office.

Through three successive leaderships — Neil Kinnock's, which made the decisive breakthrough, John Smith's, with all its Edinburgh respectability, and now Tony Blair's — the Labour Party has made itself acceptable to the middle classes, while retaining its old, though declining, working-class support. Tony Blair is the new middle-class man, the representative figure, as surely as the Duke of Devonshire is upper-class man.

Unless the Conservatives can win back the support of the large majority of the middle class they are bound to lose the next general election. Modern Britain is a society in which, at

least in the material terms of owning a house, owning a car, and having a job which is primarily mental rather than physical, two-thirds of the population belong to the middle class. That is the nature of a modern industrial society, and the proportion is even higher in the United States. If one party has the established loyalty of the poorer third of society, and can also win the support of a significant part of the more prosperous two-thirds, it is bound to win.

That was always the appeal of

William Rees-Mogg

social democracy in electoral terms. Roy Jenkins was a social democratic leader a generation ahead of his time. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Labour Party was not ready for Roy Jenkins and would not have been ready for a Tony Blair. In those years they compromised on the leadership of Harold Wilson, an essentially middle-class politician who nevertheless straddled the chasm between new and old, between Right and Left. In the early 1980s the Labour Party was almost destroyed by the last hurrah of the old working-class socialism, and lost the Gang of Four, who

believed the Labour Party had proved itself incorrigible. After the final defeat of a genuinely socialist Labour Party in 1983, the social democrats, step by step, won the control of the Labour Party which they now enjoy.

If Tony Blair were not a capable politician he could not have risen so swiftly to the leadership of his party, even though he was so much the right person at the right time. As a good politician he sees more clearly than anyone else that the only way the Conservatives can possibly beat him at the next general election is if they regain their dominance of the middle-class vote.

At the last election they managed to do that, largely by frightening the middle class with the threat of high taxes under Labour. It is very unlikely that Tony Blair will hand them that weapon again. Henry IV of France said that Paris was worth a Mass; for Tony Blair, Downing Street must be worth a low direct tax regime, particularly as the evidence is overwhelming that high direct taxes are unproductive of revenue. High taxes subsidise tax avoidance.

Of course, the fact that the Conservatives have repeatedly increased taxes in this Parliament will help Tony Blair to make the case, just as George Bush paid a high price for breaking his pledge not to increase taxes. In the past the Labour Party has been anchored to its own tradition, tied to the limited views of its own basic support. This remained a

limitation on Neil Kinnock and even on John Smith: indeed both of them shared some of this old and negative Labour consciousness. Tony Blair is a free man. He does not himself come from old Labour Party roots.

As Tony Blair can only win power for Labour by abandoning these old attitudes, by producing policies which will retain and even expand middle-class support, the Labour Party will accept that. Of course there will be resistances. Some resurgent actions will be fought by the Left. But these resistances can all be overcome, if only because the Labour Party is so desperate to end its years in the wilderness.

For British political life, this change is immense and positive. The old Labour Party was a disaster. It was based on quasi-Marxist class theories which elevated inefficient public ownership to a dogma, gave far too much power to the trade unions, and killed enterprise by grotesque levels of redistributive taxation. Just as socialism made Russia and Eastern Europe non-competitive, Britain's partial socialism made us fall behind less socialist European countries in the postwar decades down to 1980. The British economy really was saved by the economic policies of the Thatcher government, by Margaret Thatcher herself, and by her Chancellors, Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson.

During all the postwar decades the threat of a Labour government was like the threat of a torpedo amidst a potentially crippling blow to the economy. If now, with whatever important remaining differences, we have two major parties competing for middle-class support, with rational economic expectations and rational aims in government, that must be good for Britain. I still hope the Tories can avoid suffering a total electoral eclipse in 1996 or 1997.

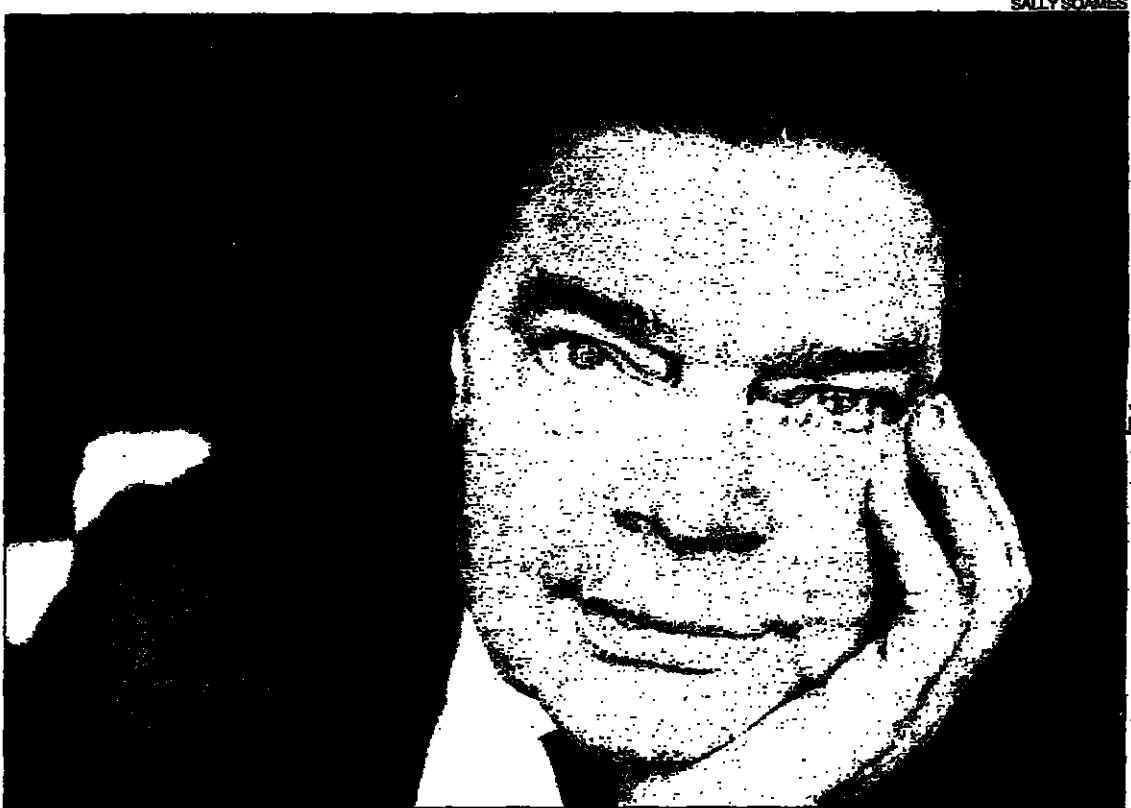
## KGB up to its old dirty tricks?

Is the Russian Ambassador in London the victim of a plot, asks Nicholas Bethell

The future of the Russian Ambassador in London, Boris Pankin, lies today on President Yeltsin's desk in the shape of a decree appointing his successor, the present Deputy Foreign Minister, Anatoli Adamishin. "Our recommendation has been approved by the Russian parliament," says a senior spokesman for the Russian government. "We hope now that it will soon be approved both by the President and by the British Foreign Office, so that Mr Adamishin can come to London and take up his post in early September."

If this happens, it would allow the new Ambassador to welcome Mr Yeltsin during his proposed visit to London next month and, most importantly, to accompany the President on his historic state visit to Moscow and St Petersburg, scheduled for October. And yet, according to friends of Ambassador Pankin both in Russia and the West, there is a real chance the President will not sign the decree. Mr Pankin is believed to feel a special regard for Mr Yeltsin who, while serving in Prague during the August 1991 anti-Gorbachev coup d'état, was one of the few Soviet ambassadors to disobey the orders sent out by the "putschists" to all embassies and to declare himself against them.

Hardliners in the Russian Foreign Ministry and the former KGB, it is suggested, have for the past year mounted a dirty-tricks campaign against the man who opposed them in 1991, spreading rumours and issuing press leaks to the effect that Mr Pankin is a bad ambassador, incompetent and lazy, a superannuated politician, a former Soviet apparatchik unfit to represent the new Russia in an important country.



Going out? Boris Pankin is said to be the target of rumours and leaks that he is a bad ambassador

Mr Pankin's inquiries about these unattributed stories have produced no reply, either from the Russian Foreign Ministry or from the President's office. Many believe that his telegrams to Mr Yeltsin and to Mr Andrei Kozyrev, the Foreign Minister, do not reach them.

In October last year, during the siege of the Russian parliament, Mr Pankin joined John Major on the steps of 10 Downing Street, issuing a televised statement in the President's support. A few days later, in London, Mr Kozyrev is believed to have assured Mr Pankin that he enjoyed the Russian government's full confidence. But although he has even now received no formal communication, the rumours of his removal have continued and the procedures for appointing his successor are well under way.

And now, in an even more mysteri-



Coming in? Anatoli Adamishin

ous twist, it emerges that a favourable reference to Mr Pankin's brave stand during the 1991 coup, which appears in the original edition of Mr Yeltsin's memoirs, published in Moscow three months ago, has been removed from the British and

other foreign editions of the book.

Mr Yeltsin's London publishers, Collins Harvill, have spoken of an "editorial misunderstanding", but the ambassador is said to be angry at the idea that certain Russian "editors", close to certain sections of the Foreign Ministry and the new KGB, may have decided to cast his name into oblivion, in Orwellian fashion, for political reasons of their own.

The Pankins came to London in early 1992. Their normal term of duty would not be expected to expire until next spring. If the President signs the decree, they could be required to leave London in a few days. August is not an easy month in which to bid farewell to the London diplomatic corps, still less to arrange a farewell audience of the Queen.

Meanwhile, a pro-Pankin camp has emerged, unusual in that it includes some of the best-known Rus-

sians who emigrated to the West during the Soviet period. The dissident Vladimir Bukovsky, the novelist Vasilii Aksyonov, the poet Irina Ratushinskaya and the world famous cellist Mstislav Rostropovich are among those ready to take up the cudgels on the ambassador's behalf.

Bukovsky says: "The affair is typical of the confusion that reigns in the Russian government at the moment. When he was the Soviet Union's last Foreign Minister, in the last days of 1991, after the 'putsch', Pankin tried with the help of the then liberal KGB chief, Vadim Bakatin, to clear the KGB out of all his foreign embassies. The new KGB have not forgiven him, so making the point that those who act against the KGB can still expect to be punished."

Mr Pankin is an unlikely candidate for the support of such senior people in the old Soviet dissident movement. It appears though that they see him as a man who, in spite of his long years of service as a Soviet apparatchik, took a conscious decision to "cross the Rubicon" and tread the path of democracy, as evidenced by his behaviour in 1991 and 1993.

The Russian Foreign Ministry was yesterday keen to play down the affair. Its spokesman said: "Mr Pankin is indeed a well-respected figure, but it must be understood that all senior appointments such as his eventually come to an end. They all have their term." It nevertheless remains a mystery why Mr Pankin's term should be brought to a close now, when he has been in London little more than two years.

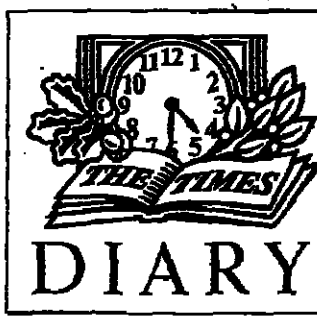
The President's imminent decision, therefore, marks the climax in what is rapidly becoming an unseemly public debate over a private state matter. Questions that would normally remain within the tight Russian administrative machine have become a matter of semi-public discussion in both Moscow and London. The long-standing "Pankin affair", now on Mr Yeltsin's desk, is seen by many as a symbol of the ongoing power struggle between old-guard hardliners and the supporters of democratic change.

## Mother's boy

DRASTIC measures are being considered in Tory circles to counter the threat of Tony Blair, and nowhere is this more apparent than among the Conservatives of Thurrock in Essex. I understand that a growing band of Thatcherites are clamouring for Andrew Rosindell, 28, champion of the "hang 'em, flog 'em" brigade and former chairman of the Young Conservatives, to stand as their candidate at the next general election.

Rosindell, who lives with his mother in Romford, roared uncompromisingly into Blackpool at last autumn's Tory party conference to rapturous applause. "Let me conclude by representing the views not just of Young Conservatives," he cried in his speech, "but of all decent, law-abiding young people in the country. It's time to bring violent young thugs."

Few agreed more readily than Ted Atwell, chairman of the Thurrock Conservative Association. "He went down a storm at the conference and the ladies love him down here. I think he would win the seat because he is down to earth in his views. He'll be an MP



one day." Atwell has asked Conservative Central Office to look favourably on any application from Rosindell to become a candidate. Rosindell, who stood in the Labour stronghold of Glasgow Provan at the last election, has yet to apply formally to headquarters to join the candidates list in England. But he admits he is considering doing so. "Clearly now is the time I should start thinking about it. I would be very happy to stand in any constituency." Leading the campaign team would be Spike, his Staffordshire bull-terrier, attired in a Union Jack waistcoat. "I am quite sure that the dog would attract just as many votes as

myself," he says. "He's the kind of dog people vote for."

●Buckingham Palace may have thrown open its doors to the world but one individual is still far from welcome. In its brochure for visitors, all monarchs who lived at the palace from George III onwards are pictured in full colour except Edward VIII, who abdicated. He appears in grainy black and white.

### Wired up

EXCELLENT news for those peers of the realm who occasionally resort to the car trumpet. The microphone and amplification system in the chamber of the House of Lords is being replaced for the first time since 1948. Workmen have already taken up the opposition and cross-benches to install wiring systems and speakers. They move on to the government benches shortly.

Once the work is complete, even the most somnolent of legislators will have little excuse for missing key passages. Lord Hailsham, whose hearing is happily unimpaired, welcomes the development. "If it is an improvement it will be good news," he says. "At the moment I find it very difficult to hear the Liberal benches without lean-

ing back to put my ear to the speaker. But when I lean back, the lights shine in my eyes so I close them — and then everyone thinks I'm asleep."

### Owning power

EVEN the most innocent of pastimes are not immune, it seems, from Germaine Greer's salvos. The latest polemic from the high priestess of feminism tears into men for nothing more than buying compact discs of classical music.

Her attack has little to do with their taste in composer. No. Greer



has stumbled upon statistics which show that men account for nearly two-thirds of classical CD purchases at HMV record stores. "The men I know buy every version of every symphony or sonata principally in order to own it. The notion of control... is very important," she rants in next month's *BBC Music*. "Women are not prepared to invest their lesser earnings in such an illusion of power."

### Great volume

HOLIDAY reading it isn't, but one of the more noteworthy books to have popped up recently in military circles gets a reassuring thumbs-up from the cognoscenti. I speak, of course, of the 1,630-page blockbuster, *The History of the Bulgarian People through Military Songs*, which receives a favourable notice in the latest issue of *Band International*, the journal of the International Military Music Society.

It is the result of 50 years of research by an artillery officer in the Bulgarian army and contains lyrics and scores of 486 marching songs with extensive historical notes all in the Cyrillic alphabet. "Mr Comarull [who brought the volume to the society's attention] says he found the work very interesting and a worthwhile purchase," advises the re-



Get down and boogie with the royal favourites: the Three Degrees

viewer, Squadron Leader Edward Bevan, "even though he is not fluent in Bulgarian." A ship at £60.

### Café society

THE PRINCE of Wales will have regarded with bemused interest shadow Heritage Secretary Marjorie Mowlem's suggestion for a new People's Palace with a Habitat-style kitchen. But I must report that he cannot give the matter his undivided attention, for he has another pressing cultural issue to attend to: a rare visit to Britain by his favourite pop group, the Three Degrees. An invitation to the first concert

next month at London's Café Royal has been dispatched and the royal reply is eagerly awaited, for the ageing all-girl trio are no strangers to his dancefloor shuffle. It was after they played at his 30th birthday party in 1978 at Buckingham Palace that one of them remarked: "He could really boogie. We thought he might be a bit staid being the future King of England but he soon changed our minds." Charles, though flattered, was far from convinced. "I haven't yet caught up with these transatlantic terms," he retorted.

P-H-S





## HAPPY DAYS

Say it quietly: but something long forgotten may be back

Now that most of our senior politicians are tucked away on holiday, it is safe to suggest an idea for which, if they were at home, they would all want to take credit: that happy days are here again.

This is not a suggestion we would want to make lightly. Few now feel comfortable with the notion of a *zeitgeist* or spirit of the age. Common sense dictates, however, that moments in history are defined in part by moods, attitudes and propensities for action. Future historians of Britain will look back on the two years after the 1992 general election as a period of moral panic, cultural uncertainty and political disorientation. They may also record that a subtle shift in the national mood took place during 1994.

The horrific murder of James Bulger in February 1993 released a wave of moral alarm which still laps across the popular conscience. Fear of crime, incivility and social dislocation has certainly not slackened since then. The perception of a potential underclass, peopled by criminals without hope or reason, is intensifying. John Major's disastrous "back to basics" campaign responded to those widespread anxieties but in a self-defeating language guaranteed to alienate all but puritans and nostalgists.

This mood of frustration has been reflected in an impressive body of political writing. The philosopher John Gray has argued that the Conservatives' obsession with free market ideology has seriously damaged the cohesion of British society. Others have argued that this breakdown has more to do with the permissive society and dependency on welfare. No writer better captured the anxiety of the moment than David Selbourne in his books *The Spirit of the Age* and *The Principle of Duty*.

Yet the latter work, in its championship of a new civic politics, also pointed a way out of dependency. In recent months, a fresh sense of possibility and opportunity has slowly emerged in British politics. The death of John Smith brought people together not only in grief but also in the realisation that a good politician could be a good man, a public life about more than public success. Mr Smith's successor, Tony Blair, has seized this opportunity to develop the themes of national renewal and community values.

This rhetoric of regeneration is not confined to the Labour Party, or even to party politics. Michael Portillo has given similar emphasis in recent speeches to the

deeper value of voluntary work and the means of cultivating civic harmony. The Prince of Wales, too, has memorably celebrated the "unhistoric acts" which bind communities. Rhetoric has yet to be translated into policy: what is new is the sense that the right policies might be found — that efforts towards a can-do, must-do approach cannot be countered by mere derision.

Beyond public life, there are hints of a new cultural optimism. Cinema audiences are turning away from violent action films and towards family entertainment. In contemporary literature, the bleak tone of writers such as Martin Amis and Ian McEwan is no longer so dominant. It is dangerous to draw sweeping conclusions from such shifts in popular taste: it may be as dangerous to draw no conclusion at all.

Economic recovery is certainly a major reason for the new, more positive mood, just as recession underpinned the fatalism of the early 1990s. Bill Clinton's presidential campaign showed that recovery can give voters the confidence to support an agenda of change. But the economy is not the only guide to optimism's return. Although the future direction of Europe, and Britain's role therein, remain unclear, the sense of immediate danger and apocalypse that overshadowed the Cold War has gone. So has the worst fear of the new world disorder: its problems are seen now as intractable not terrifying. The course of the Bosnian war has probably strengthened our sense of security. The Rwandan tragedy has produced a huge charitable response.

The most important feature of the hesitant new optimism is that it is emphatically not Utopian. It comes from a growing belief that we can all take more control of our own lives, the welfare of our families and the integrity of our communities. Devolution of power to local institutions has been matched by an upsurge in voluntary activity. Voters expect more of government for less money; but they no longer expect government to do everything. Much of what used to be healthy fragmentation is turning out to be healthy diversity. There is no certainty to speak of in these developments. Some may recall that the ink was barely dry upon the score of "Happy Days Are Here Again" before America was felled by the Crash of 29. But so cynical a response to hope is not the natural, even necessary, response today that it was just a few months ago.

## MARCHING MUSLIMS

Reminders of the need for vigilance

The rally yesterday of some 8,000 Muslims in Wembley Arena provoked understandable nervousness in Britain and abroad. British and Israeli intelligence kept a close eye on the event, organised by the International Muslim Khalifah, in the wake of the recent bombing of the Israeli embassy. Charles Pasqua, the tough French Interior Minister, expressed his disturbance at the freedom of militant Islamic groups to operate in Britain at a time when France is still in shock at the latest murder of five French security officials in Algeria.

The event passed off relatively peacefully, justifying the police and Home Office decision not to cancel the rally on public order grounds. The timing, nevertheless, draws attention to the growing number of fundamentalist activists who have come to Britain and whose activities and ideologies are worrying to Western interests.

This country's liberal asylum laws are easily used by those who preach intolerance and anti-Western hostility in the countries from which they have fled: the Iranian Mujahidin Khalq opposition, Kurdish PKK guerrillas, fundamentalist dissidents from Saudi Arabia and Tunisia and the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) are among the more unsavoury anti-democratic groups that have set up bases here. The security

services keep a close eye on their activities, but as long as they do not break any British laws, they can further their causes from the safety of this country, despite lobbying by frustrated Middle Eastern governments.

France too used to be a haven for such groups: it was from France that Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran to set up his monstrous regime. M Pasqua now takes a very different line, and accuses Britain, Germany and the United States of harbouring Algerian militants. His government has just rounded up and interned known supporters of the FIS. Paris has given strong backing for the Algerian government's ruthless campaign and has suffered the consequent targeting of French citizens.

Algeria is rapidly becoming a nasty problem for its neighbours. Sooner or later the FIS, denied the legitimate fruit of its likely general election victory, will seize power. France is short-sighted in holding out against any dialogue with the FIS. The government's accusations against its Western allies are evidence of its desperation in how to handle the fundamentalist threat. Britain cannot afford to be smug, and must ensure that no terrorist actions are planned from this country. But it should nudge Paris to avoid becoming more deeply enmeshed in the Algerian imbroglio.

## PUBLISH THE PRICE

The secrecy surrounding property deals should stop

For anyone who suspects that the housing market is rigged to enrich estate agents and solicitors, a small solution is offered today. The very modest proposal is that the price paid each time a house or piece of land changes hands should be made public through the Land Registry.

Within the next few weeks, the Chief Land Registrar will make a recommendation to the Lord Chancellor, having sifted through the replies he received to a consultation paper suggesting this change. Until 1976, prices were included on the land register, but since the register was not then open to the public, the prices could be disclosed only by permission of the owner. The system was stopped because it was abused. When solicitors drew up sale documents, they almost always excised the previous selling price. The lawyers argued that if buyers could see how hugely the house price had risen, they might try to renegotiate.

This, of course, would be anathema to estate agents too. Moreover, if buyers and sellers had better information on house prices, estate agents' inflated claims would be seen for the nonsense they are. Those who win business by promising the highest asking price, only to advise the vendor to drop the price a month later, would be exposed. If everybody knew that a similar house in the same street had recently been sold for a specific amount, it would be easier

for both buyers and sellers to reach a realistic price by themselves.

The dissemination of knowledge about prices always makes for a more efficient market. Their publication might also help to prevent another mad inflationary boom. Purchasers might be unwilling to pay a huge premium over what a speculative vendor had recently paid for a house.

Economists have come to realise the damaging effects of rampant house price inflation on the economy. The movement of house prices affects more than the property market: it also has an impact on how much people spend and how rich they feel. When property prices increase, people borrow more — and not just to meet the higher prices.

Movements in asset prices are now officially used by the Chancellor as one of his inflation indicators. But there is no reliable nationwide guide to house prices. Individual building societies, such as the Nationwide and the Halifax, produce figures but they are inevitably distorted. Publication of house sale prices would allow a proper monitoring of the market; from Treasury economists at one end of the scale to individual house-buyers at the other. Fraud would be harder to conceal. Estate agents could no longer make false claims about selling prices. The Chief Land Registrar should make his recommendation in favour of the consumer, and the Lord Chancellor should act on it.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Cautious welcome for composition of Healthcare 2000

From the Chairman of the National Association of Fundholding Practices

Sir, Welcoming as I do the formation of Healthcare 2000 (letters, July 29, August 4 and 5), I am disturbed by the antagonistic tone of several of your correspondents to the NHS reforms.

There is little doubt that there could be unlimited demand for healthcare. There is also little doubt that Britain has a very cost-effective health service: for 6.5 per cent of GDP, we produce healthcare for 100 per cent of the population; in the USA 13 per cent of GDP produces healthcare for 70 per cent.

The purpose of the reforms introduced in 1991 was not only to create the purchaser-provider split but also to enhance primary care and GPs' ability to make decisions on behalf of their patients. The effect has been far greater than anyone expected: fundholders' waiting lists have shortened and fundholding has emerged as a dynamic force for improving healthcare, both in hospitals and in the community.

Before the reforms some areas of the country seemingly received more money than others and there were considerable differences in waiting lists. The reforms have exposed these differences; they have resulted in powerful attempts to ensure that fundholders receive their full share of NHS resources for their patients. I can only applaud those fundholders who achieve high standards, setting examples for the rest of us to follow.

There is no doubt in my mind that it is the patients who have benefited from these reforms. The patient is interested in power battles between consultants and managers or consultants and GPs, not indeed in the particularly concerned about where the money comes from. He wants a high-standard, quick, courteous and convenient service. It seems to me that it is what the reforms are trying to effect.

Yours faithfully,  
J. RHIDIAN MORRIS, Chairman,  
National Association of Fundholding Practices,  
12 Durham Road,  
Raynes Park, SW20,  
August 4.

From the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists  
Sir, Healthcare 2000, set up to examine anxieties about the new health service, comes too little and too late.

Immense damage was done to the National Health Service when it was demoted to a few hundred competing trusts. The Department of Health was strongly advised five years ago by many professional advisers against rushing these changes, but they went ahead.

The Government is renowned for its resistance to professional advice. This has happened in the law, police and education, as well as in medicine. Contrary to ministers' ideas, such professional experts are not there to fight their own corner but genuinely want to help plan a logical and workable future, which in our case is the better health of the nation.

We urge Sir Duncan Nichol not to fall for the fallacy that experts are biased. As Sir Terence English suggests (letter, August 4), Sir Duncan should increase his committee's 2:9 ratio of doctors to academics, administrators and businessmen. We will all help by giving evidence if he desires, but the important stages occur in the committee when issues are debated and examined. Sir Duncan should seek professional advice and invite experts to take a more responsible place in the process.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY CHAMBERLAIN,  
President,  
Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists,  
27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1,  
August 4.

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, We welcome Sir Duncan Nichol's call for reform of the NHS — a call which we have been making for some while past.

Where we differ from him is that while he intends to "examine the many contributions to the health debate" we know now that our predictions about the effect of the reforms have already come true. While he suggests "encouraging submission" for "a report next spring" we put forward a seven-point plan last month for dealing with the current situation (report, July 5).

Our plan's starting point is the recognition that the changes are not working: it calls for the re-establishment of a consensus on aims and objectives of the NHS, an assessment of needs as distinct from demands, the determining of healthcare priorities, the reform of purchasing and providing, and measures to ensure that purchasers and providers join forces to

meet patients' needs effectively in a strategically planned system.

We therefore welcome the support of Healthcare 2000 and of the eminent medical figures whose letters you published on August 4. But we believe the time for investigation has passed. We should move forward to action now, along the lines that we have already suggested.

Yours faithfully,  
E. M. ARMSTRONG,  
Secretary,  
British Medical Association,  
Tavistock Square, WC1,  
August 4.

From Dr John Gayner

Sir, Healthcare 2000 does not appear to have any remit to consider co-operative ventures between the NHS and the private sector. As they have rightly noted, there is a need to reassess the hospital structures in light of the latest medical and technological advances.

The shared use of expensive equipment can only be to the benefit of all patients. The buildings required to house this equipment, and the needs that this creates, will be totally different from those supplied by the traditional district general hospital. Cooperation in creating new community centres with the private sector should also be examined.

Sir Terence English (letter, August 4) is concerned with the inequities of a system where clinical priorities are dictated by purchasing policies of commissioning authorities. We have in the private sector many years' experience of dealing with the private healthcare insurers, and their different policies of reimbursement for each individual item of service.

Our experience of the dynamics this creates in the provision of healthcare should also be brought to bear in the discussions being held by Sir Duncan Nichol's group.

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. GAYNER  
(Private medical practitioner),  
79 Cadogan Place, SW1,  
August 4.

From Mr A. D. Wayne

Sir, Where is the voice of the patient in this self-appointed bunch of busy-bodies?

Yours sceptically,  
A. D. WAYNE,  
46 Fitzjohn Avenue,  
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Zepa and Srebrenica will require additional protection.

Suggestions that a lifting of the arms embargo should be accompanied, for their safety, by the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops, are understandable; but this would seriously worsen the situation in the "safe areas". An opposite policy is required, ensuring that UN/Nato air and ground forces are strengthened.

The country most able to achieve this is also the country most actively calling for a lifting of the arms embargo, that is the USA. Together with Russia and other European countries a task force of ground troops with full air support should be assembled as swiftly as possible. It would primarily defend the enclaves, and could be withdrawn once the Bosnian government is able to defend its own people.

Yours sincerely,  
D. P. SOUTHWALL,  
University of Keele,  
Academic Department of Paediatrics,  
North Staffordshire Hospital,  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire,  
August 4.

centres and concert halls, whilst operatic provision is concentrated in relatively large-scale producing centres.

The regional arts boards are responsible for distributing the majority of arts funding, and a new process of "integration" is being established between them and the Arts Council, by which the council hopes to provide a national perspective for the arts.

It is vital that the regional boards take into account the special nature of the jazz constituency. The Arts Council is currently undertaking a national review of jazz provision.

Yours truly,  
GAVIN HENDERSON  
(Chairman, Music Panel),  
The Arts Council of England,  
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.

### Bosnia arms embargo

From Professor David Southall

Sir, For the last five months a team of paediatricians from the University of Keele has been working in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We have seen at first hand the devastating effects of war on the civilian population, and have also observed that, due to lack of resources, UNPROFOR were unable to protect civilians.

The current proposal to lift the arms embargo imposed by the international community on Bosnia (report, August 1) is an important step in permitting a legitimate government to protect its civilian population. However, its implementation cannot be immediately effective.

There will be a window of opportunity during which Bosnian Serb forces, with their heavy weapons, will be able to subject civilians within the so-called UN safe areas to widespread suffering. The effective arming of Bosnian government forces may take as long as two to three months, during which time areas such as Gorazde,

### Communism dispute

From the Bishop of Chichester

Sir, Your report today that I have stopped a woman priest from celebrating Communion in a Chichester church is making a mountain out of a molehill.

The vicar of a parish complains to me that there is a notice advertising a service of Holy Communion in a bookshop in his parish, to be taken by a priest from another town, about which he has not been consulted. I remind the manager of the bookshop that the agreement of the incumbent is needed for an external priest to celebrate in his parish, whether the priest is male or female. A member of my staff without my knowledge says the same thing to the priest in question. This is then blown up as if I was making it an issue about the ordination of women.

Yours truly,  
ERIC CICESTR,  
The Palace,  
Chichester, West Sussex,  
August 5.

### Flag-carrier

From Mr Robert Weston

Sir, Your report (August 3) the embarrassment that is felt by our ambassadors abroad at being unable to fly the flag of a British-owned volume carmaker.

Admirable as the Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit is, I feel that undignified, British-owned volume carmaker — who, no doubt, would be more than pleased to assist me in supplying transport more suited to these straitened times — is the producer of the Reliant Robin.

Yours sincerely,  
R. WESTON,  
The Sunnyside, Wigston Hill,  
Baxterley, Warwickshire,  
August 4.

### Cometary prediction

From Dr S. V. M. Clube

Sir, As a catastrophist closely involved with cometary prediction over many years, I was sorry to note the persistent efforts by your correspondents of August 4 to impose an outmoded, simplistic view of cosmic catastrophes on history.

Our ancestors are well known, of course, to have feared comets ("portents"), which were often seen as "a warning to kings". Thus, when a bombardment seemed likely, they would scour the skies for signs of a disintegration in space ("monstrous births") and the massive meteoric encounters with the Earth that sometimes followed ("prodigies"). Such occasions, lasting decades, would result in a general concern that "last times" were at hand.

The troubled periods of Cromwell and Napoleon are the two most recent in which a cometary influence of this

kind was actually discerned. Nowadays, should further fragmenting bodies pass close to the Earth, we can no longer exclude the possibility of significant aerial explosions and persistent dust veils seriously adding to our stress.

The problem always with these troubled periods is public prognostication. Those in charge will generally deny that calamities will occur, in order to avoid undue hysteria and cosmic terror; but there is no guarantee that the resulting conflict between the "establishment" and the predestinarians, millennialists, doomdayers, fundamentalists, etc. will be readily settled. Such crises allow little time for reflection.

Nevertheless, calamity or no calamity, there has always arisen in the immediate aftermath of these stressful times a deep human urge to forget, which then persists: a fact which leaves everyone ill-prepared for the next period of bombardment.

The space age has greatly enhanced

our understanding of these matters. Thus the authorities can now admit the possibility of cosmic calamity and divert taxpayers' money towards countering the threat; alternatively, they can deny the possibility and simply savour the hype that goes with each new comet.

The tendency may be to prefer the former over the latter only in times of renewed cosmic stress. But the authorities then risk being too late and having to follow the Chinese mandarin, which silenced astronomers on pain of death, or the European church, which imposed its inquisition.

Yours sincerely,  
S. V. M. CLUBE  
(Senior Research Fellow  
in Astrophysics),  
Nuclear Physics Laboratory,  
Keble Road, Oxford.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

### A crucial vote on county control

From Lady Faithfull and others

Sir, Between now and August 15, people living in Oxfordshire have their last chance to vote on the choice between breaking up the county into three unitary authorities (the preferred choice of the Local Government Commission) and retaining the present structure of a county council and five district councils.

This is not a matter of party politics. Douglas Hurd, MP for an Oxfordshire constituency as well as Foreign Secretary, has written to the commission to say: "I have come to the firm conclusion that the right course is to leave things as they are."

We wholeheartedly agree with Mr Hurd. Breaking up the county into three separate councils would mean the fragmentation of the Oxfordshire school system and the social and emergency services.

A second major disadvantage would be the end of the strategic thinking on the county-wide basis which is needed to keep under constant review the county structure plan, covering land-use development, protection of the environment, roads and transport. It is unrealistic to suppose that this can be left to "co-ordination" between three independent councils which could very well take different views of the balance between economic growth and the environment.

If Oxfordshire County Council were to be replaced by three smaller bodies, without County Hall's experience, "clout" and resources in staff, who would represent Oxfordshire to national government and stand up to pressure — as the county council and its officers have done — from Whitehall and from developers bent upon opening up Oxfordshire as a prime target for development west of London?

The cost of carrying out the commission's preferred choice is estimated at £15 million — money which would be far better spent on improving existing services. Who wants it? Mr Hurd says he can "certainly detect no popular demand for change."

It would be a great mistake, however, to think that this settles the matter and that there is no need to bother to vote. The real driving force behind the push for local government reform in Oxfordshire and other counties comes from Whitehall, which is bent upon cutting the present county councils down to size and replacing them with smaller bodies more amenable to direction from above.

The commission is well aware of the Government's views: only if there is a resounding majority in favour of the status quo is it likely to abandon its stated preference for breaking up the county. It is up to Oxfordshire people to take advantage of the referendum and leave the commission in no doubt of what they think.

Yours faithfully,  
LUCY FAITHFULL,  
ROBERT BLAKE,  
ALAN BULLOCK,  
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,  
303 Woodstock Road, Oxford,  
August 3.

### Seeking guidance

From Mr S. D. Baggett

Sir, Mr Edward Beaumont (letters, July 29) is to some extent correct when he says that almost all financial advice falls any strict independence test. Certainly, the financial advice offered by most banks and building societies does not even pretend to be independent.

However, it should be noted that a source of independent financial advice does exist, and is available on many high streets. These advisers have in common a number of important features, as follows:

They have passed examinations in contract, trusts, taxation, insurance law, banking, law, company law, family law, wills and succession, and have also undergone a lengthy period of formal training.

They are covered by a comprehensive insurance and compensation scheme, which is not subject to any arbitrary limit.

They are obliged by strictly enforced rules to remain independent: They are obliged to disclose commission, and to account for it to their clients.

They are authorised, regulated, and disciplined by one of the oldest institutions in the land.

They are, of course, solicitors.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON D. BAGGOTT,  
Tofield Swann & Smythe (solicitors),  
14 Figgie Lane,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
August 2.

### Undersized

From Mr Geoff L. Burns

Sir, I was interested to read of the discovery, by a Californian geologist, of the skeleton of an Ice Age pygmy mammoth (News in brief, August 4). Surely, these are common finds these days. Now, if it had been a mammoth pygmy...

Yours faithfully,  
G. L. BURNS,  
31 Hurstville Avenue,  
Hayes, Kent,  
August 4.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
August 6: Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

## Birthdays today

Princess Beatrice of York is 6 today.  
Professor Jack Baldwin, chemist, 56; Mr Keith Barron, actor, 60; Lord Campbell of Eskdale, 52; Mr Dennis Canavan, MP, 52; Lord Chapple, 73; Dr Michael Clark, MP, 59; Viscount Combermere, 65; the Earl of Donoughmore, 67; Lord Hayhoe, 69; Mr Dustin Hoffman, actor, 57; Lieutenant-General Sir David House, 72; Mr P.H. Lapping, headmaster, Sherborne School, Dorset, 53; Mr Nigel Mansell, racing driver, 41; Sir Alan Muir Wood, civil engineer, 73; Sir Patrick Neill, QC, former Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 68; Professor Sir Roger Penrose, mathematician, 63; Miss Barbara Sonnentag, fashion designer, 32; Sir Neil Thorne, former MP, 62; Mr Bill Wigglesworth, former deputy director general, Ofel, 57; Sir John Wood, former High Court Judge, 72; Professor John Yudkin, nutritionist, 84.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Jacques de Beauval, theologian, Rouen, 1653; Francis Hutcheson, philosopher, Armagh, 1694; William Bateson, biologist, Whitby, 1861; P.A.M. Dirac, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Bristol, 1902; Andy Warhol, painter, Pittsburgh, 1931.

**DEATHS:** Thomas a Kempis, theologian, Agnetenberg, The Netherlands, 1471; George Canning, Prime Minister 1827, London, 1827; Thomas Crofton Cooker, antiquary, London, 1854; Lucia Mathews, (Mrs Vester), actress, London, 1856; Robert Moffat, missionary, Leigh, Surrey, 1883; Jacob Burckhardt, historian, Basel, 1897; Anton Denikin, commander of the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Russian civil war 1918-20, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1947; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, London, 1979.

The English Poor Law Act was passed, 1834.  
The Great Train Robbery — £2.25 million stolen from the Glasgow-London train at Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, 1963.

President Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate affair, 1974.

John McCarthy was released in Beirut after 1,943 days in captivity, 1991.

## Appointments in the Church

**Appointments**  
The Rev Brian Regan, Curate, St John the Baptist (Fleet Street), Coventry, to be Vicar, St Oswald's, Tile Hill, Coventry (Coventry).

The Rev Canon Timothy Sedgley, Vicar, Walton on Thames, to be also Chapter Dean of Chapter 13 (Guildford).

The Rev Dr Brian Shand, Assistant Curate, Worplesdon, to be Vicar, All Saints, Weston (Guildford).

The Rev Ian Shackleton, Assistant Curate, St John the Baptist, Tuerbrook, to be Priest-in-charge, St Luke, Southport and Assistant Chaplain at Walton Prison (Liverpool).

The Rev Michael Shields, Vicar, St John, Sevenoaks, to be also an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral (Rochester).

The Rev Dr Reginald Stretton, Hon Curate, Loughborough Good Shepherd, to be Priest-in-charge, (NSM), Burrough Hill parishes (Leicester).

The Rev Christopher Swift, Vicar, Whitton St Philip and St James, to be Rector, Shepperton (London).

The Rev Terry Thake, Team Rector, Chell, Chaplain of Westcliffe Hospital and Rural Dean of Stoke North, to be the Incumbent, Colwich w Great Haywood (Lichfield).

The Rev Stuart Thomas, Vicar, Churt, to be Vicar, St Francis, Ewell (Guildford).

The Rev Mark Turner, Curate, Steadford (Lincoln), to be Assistant Curate Botesford, Muston; Harry w Long Clawson and Essex; and Barksstone w Plungar, Redmile and Sathern (Leicester).

The Rev David Underwood, Team Vicar, Haverhill Team Ministry, to be Priest-in-charge, St John's, Bury St Edmunds (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Jackie Waterman, Associate Priest, St Columba, Anfield, to be Team Vicar, All Saints, Speke (Liverpool).

The Rev Peter Watkins, Director of Coventry diocesan branch of the Cursillo Movement, to be also Rural Dean of Rugby, same diocese.

**Resignations and retirements**  
The Rev Edmund Copley, Rector, Uggeshall, Sotherton, Wargrave and Henham (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich), to retire as from September 30.

The Rev Canon Dennis Hedges, Rector, Farmcombe (Guildford), to retire as from September 30.

The Rev Canon John Randall, Vicar, St Oswald's, New Bilton, Rugby and Rural Dean of Rugby (Coventry), to retire as from the end of September.

The Great Train Robbery — £2.25 million stolen from the Glasgow-London train at Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, 1963.

President Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate affair, 1974.

John McCarthy was released in Beirut after 1,943 days in captivity, 1991.

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## OBITUARIES

## INNOKENTI SMOKTUNOVSKY

Innokenti Smoktunovsky, Russian stage and film actor, died in Moscow on August 3 aged 69. He was born in Siberia on March 28, 1925.

FOR Western cinema audiences the name of Innokenti Smoktunovsky immediately conjures up his performance in the title role of Kozintsev's film version of *Hamlet* (1964) which made such an impact when it was first seen in Britain. If the conception was Kozintsev's he could have chosen no better execution of his purposes than Smoktunovsky.

This was a reading of the play and of the role which banished from the stage the irresolute protagonist which characterises so many productions and replaced him with a brave and rational hero. For this, Smoktunovsky's strong yet mobile features were ideal, and his eyes radiated purposeful intelligence. It was a performance which, quite correctly, lifted the whole play out of the realm of mere vacillation and focused it firmly on the corruption in which Elsinore is steeped. With Smoktunovsky's performance *Hamlet* became, as Shakespeare surely intended it to be, a battleground for the defence of human dignity against the moral villainy of Claudius's court.

It was perhaps the most indelible achievement of an acting career which nevertheless had many other high points. Indeed in Russia Smoktunovsky is regarded as one of the giants of the stage and screen.

Innokenti Smoktunovsky was born in the Tomsk district of western Siberia and went to school in Krasnoyarsk. War with Germany broke out when he was 16 and in the following year he was drafted into the Red Army where he became a sergeant. He took part in the fierce battles of 1943 which broke the back of the German Army and served throughout the triumphal march to Berlin.

After the war he trained in natal



Innokenti Smoktunovsky in Grigori Kozintsev's 1964 film version of *Hamlet*

medicine but studied at the same time at the Pushkin Theatre Studio in Krasnoyarsk. Becoming an actor, he worked in theatres all over Russia,

from Novosibirsk in remote northern Siberia to Stalingrad and Moscow. From 1957 he was a member of the Gorki Bolshoi Theatre company in

Leningrad. There he acted in many productions by the director Grigori Kozintsev, notably as Prince Myshkin in Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*.

His film debut came in 1957 with a role in *Soldiers*, an epic war film. This certainly made an impression and indicated the psychological approach which was later to triumph so completely in *Hamlet*. But his performance in Mikhail Romm's *Nine Days of One Year* (1962) gave him his breakthrough to critical recognition. He played Mozart in *Requiem for Mozart* in the same year and then, in 1964, came the famous *Hamlet* which carried his reputation beyond the confines of the Soviet Union. With its director, Smoktunovsky came to London for the film's launch at the British Film Institute and he was to return two years later when the Leningrad Gorki Theatre company played at the Aldwych Theatre.

Later films included Igor Talankin's *Tchaikovsky* in which Smoktunovsky was the outstanding performance in a film which otherwise fell rather flat. Perhaps this was because it was made with an eye to Western audiences and some of the characteristic qualities of the Russian film-making genius seemed to have been dissipated in the process. Smoktunovsky also played the title role in *Uncle Vanya* (1972), directed by Mikhail Kozlovsky. But he continued loyal to the stage, appearing in, among other works, productions at the Maly Theatre, Moscow, where he played the title roles in Alexei Konstantinovich Tolstoy's tragedy *Tsar Fyodor Ivanovich* and in Chekhov's *Ivanov*.

Smoktunovsky's great strength was in playing tragic roles, but he liked the comic stage, too, particularly when it involved him in playing rogues whose crimes are aimed at people with a style of criminality of a more officially sanctioned sort.

Smoktunovsky is survived by his wife and a son and a daughter.

## SIR RICHARD NEVILLE, Bt

Sir Richard (Lionel John Baines) Neville, Bt, journalist and broadcaster, died on August 2 aged 73. He was born on July 15, 1921.



As a journalist working for French radio Richard Neville found himself in some of the world's most dangerous places in the 1950s. He was in Indo-China 40 years ago when besieged French troops were overrun by the Viet Minh at the historic siege of Dien Bien Phu. Three years later he was in Algeria at the time when the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) was mounting its successful rebellion against the country's colonial French masters.

But then at the age of 39 Neville retired, returning on his father's death to Sloley Hall, the Georgian mansion in Norfolk where he grew up — to lead henceforth the enviable life of an English country gentleman. His forebears moved into the house on the night of the Battle of Waterloo.

He was the son of Sir Reginald Neville, Conservative MP for East Norfolk for many years. The baronetcy was conferred on Neville in respect of his political services in 1927.

After Eton young Richard went to Trinity College, Cambridge, to read modern languages, graduating in 1941 just before his career was overtaken by the Second World War. After a short spell at Sandhurst, Neville was commissioned into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, but was

then almost immediately seconded to the West African Frontier Force (or West African Rifles). Posted to the 1st Gold Coast Regiment, he was sent as adjutant of his battalion to Burma in 1944 and fought there throughout the rest of the war, becoming ADC to General Sir Hugh Stockwell, then commanding 24th Independent Brigade.

On being demobilised as an acting captain, Neville's fluent French helped to win him a job in Paris with Barclay's Bank. But he soon grew bored with banking and sought a more adventurous life in journalism.

After joining the French public broadcasting organisation Radio Television Française, he was posted by them to Indo-China in 1953 as director of English broadcasts, with Australia and New Zealand as his main target areas. Two years later he moved to French Equatorial Africa, as director of foreign broadcasts — chiefly in English, Spanish

and Portuguese — then in 1957 was transferred further north to Algeria.

The baronetcy, on Sir Reginald's death in 1960, was inherited by Edmund Neville. Sir Reginald's son by a previous marriage, Richard succeeded him as the third baronet 12 years ago.

But it was Richard Neville who took over Sloley Hall in 1960. There, amid its 500 acres, after years spent travelling the world, he threw himself into local life. He was patron of the church at nearby Stalham, churchwarden of his own church at Sloley, and an active supporter of the local Conservative Party.

Neville was a knowledgeable amateur expert on genealogy and heraldry and was an accomplished lecturer on both. Between 1972 and 1974 he was also master of the Worshipful Company of Bowyers.

He continued to travel widely, visiting his many friends on the Continent, particularly in France and Belgium. But he also belonged to a wide circle of friends in this country, who found him an engaging wit, conversationalist and cook.

He was agreeably disorganised and notoriously untidy. But Neville was immensely popular in Norfolk, noted for his kindness and generosity to those less fortunate than himself.

He never married and had no heir so the baronetcy dies with him. He is survived by his half-brother, the son of Neville's mother by her first marriage — to an officer in the Rifle Brigade who was killed in the First World War.

## TAI SOLARIN

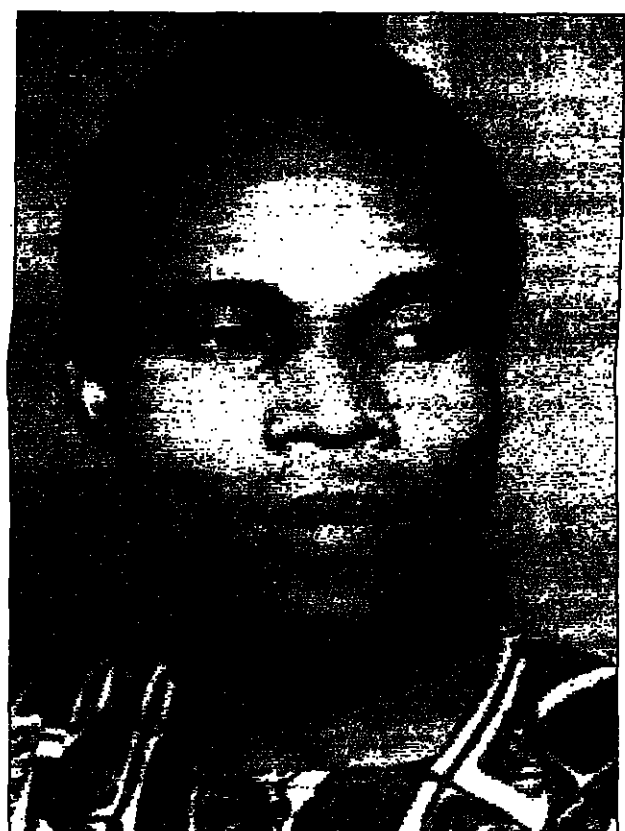
Tai Solarin, Nigerian educationist, newspaper columnist and human rights activist, died on July 27 aged 77. He was uncertain of the precise date of his birth but gave it as August 20, 1916.

ALMOST invariably shabbily dressed in khaki shirt and shorts and well-worn canvas shoes, Tai Solarin became a widely revered figure in Nigeria because of his spartan lifestyle, the educational policies he practised at Mayflower School, which he founded, and because of his unquenchable desire to speak out against the evils of society. He was a natural rebel against authority, whether it emanated from his country's succession of military rulers or the God in which he never placed his faith.

He served briefly as Public Complaints Commissioner for the western states of Oyo, Ogun and Ondo between 1976 and 1977 and a decade later chaired a committee overseeing development projects. But he made his mark mostly as an educationist, social crusader and human rights activist and was frequently imprisoned for his efforts.

He was jailed on several occasions by the Yakubu Gowon and Shehu Shagari administrations for demanding a return to civilian rule and railing against corruption. In 1983 was detained without trial for 18 months on similar grounds by the military junta headed by Major-General Muhammad Buhari. He was delighted in using shock tactics to produce results and on one occasion during one of Nigeria's periodic moments of civil strife delivered, at dead of night, a corpse in a coffin to the offices of the Commission. Hearty to draw attention to the administration's failure to remove the dead bodies abandoned on the roadside.

Born at Ikene in Ogun State in the southwest of Nigeria, Tai Solarin was the son of a palm-wine tapper who abandoned him and his twin sister at a young age. He then



lived with an older half-brother and attended Wesley College, Ibadan, from 1932 to 1939.

After enlisting in the RAF in 1942 and training as a pilot in Canada, he stayed in Britain to obtain a BA from Manchester University and an MA from the University of London. During this spell here he was profoundly influenced by Britain's post-war radical left, listening to the fiery speeches of the "Red Dean", Hugh Johnson and Harry Pollitt, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

Returning to Nigeria in 1952, he spent three years as Principal of Moulai College in Ibadan. He was, however, his unorthodox approach to education was a constant source of trouble. Apart from his mode of dress, which was regarded as highly improper for a school principal, he made no secret of his atheism, encour-

aged students to publish a school magazine in which they expressed their own views, abolished compulsory attendance at church on Sundays, and confiscated all copies of *Songs of Praise*, insisting that if the pupils wished to continue their choral singing, they should compose their own songs.

The school governors were enraged by his approach and demanded that his changes to school practice be reversed. He resigned and a year later, in January 1956, founded Mayflower School where no one was compelled to attend church but no one was prevented from doing so if they wished. The school was deliberately pluralistic in its intake and when the late Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi Ironsi, Nigeria's military leader, visited Mayflower ten years later — a day before he was assassinated — there were placards written in seven dif-

ferent languages by the students welcoming him.

Now that Solarin had his own school, he was able to run it as he wished. He introduced the *Merry Mayflower*, a book of hymns written by the pupils themselves, operated an "open-door" policy and promoted a sense of self-reliance and of equality between boy and girl pupils.

He remained the Principal of Mayflower until 1976 when the federal government took over all private secondary schools. However, much of the tradition of Mayflower remains today and his English wife, Sheila, whom he married in 1951, is the school's headmistress.

Solarin's extremely public atheism was a shocking matter in Nigeria, where the power of the religious establishment was still considerable. He first gained national prominence when he declared in the *Daily Times* of Lagos that there was no God. "God," he wrote, "is a soporific phantom, tossed by people who have nothing to do to fantasise the waking hours of other millions of people who, too, have nothing to do." His outspokenness earned him notoriety and he and his school were blacklisted by the Christian Council of Nigeria.

Politically, Solarin was a disciple of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, a leader of the Yoruba people of western Nigeria and one of the architects of Nigerian nationalism. Even so Solarin supported the attempted secession of Biafra and when the civil war ended went with his wife to the east to help to take care of starvation victims, bringing some of them back to study at Mayflower.

Even before the civil war he had been an outspoken critic of the Gowon government and when he criticised the President for marrying ostentatiously in the middle of the war, the authorities promptly locked him up for 48 hours.

Later, in 1974 when he wrote an article calling on the military regime to hand over to civilian rule he was detained

for 32 days. It was in 1976, after the removal of General Gowon from power, that Solarin was appointed Public Complaints Commissioner — or ombudsman — for Oyo, Ogun and Ondo states. But the following year he was accused and convicted of driving without a licence.

Although an appeal court set aside the judgment, Solarin had already resigned as Public Complaints Commissioner, saying that a man indicted even for a minor traffic offence could not continue to operate in such an office.

He was even more critical of the subsequent Shagari government and in 1983, when he felt the written word was not effective enough — no doubt with memories of hearing Harry Pollitt's diatribes at Speakers Corner in Hyde Park — he began delivering a weekly speech attacking the government from the Campos Square in Lagos, which he renamed Freedom Square. Enthusiastic crowds attended and he was frequently detained as a consequence.

When the army intervened politically for a second time in Nigeria, establishing a military junta headed by Major-General Buhari, Solarin again called for a speedy return to civilian rule and was detained, without trial, for 18 months. During this time he was adopted by Amnesty International as a Prisoner of Conscience.

In 1988, by now a considerable folk hero, he was appointed by the government to chair a committee co-ordinating development infrastructure projects in Benue, Plateau, Borno and Gongola states, and in 1990, at the initiative of the administration headed by Ibrahim Babangida, he served as chairman of the People's Bank.

In addition to his newspaper column Solarin wrote a number of books, including *Towards Nigeria's Moral Self: Government and a Message For Young Nigerians*.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and son.

## DOMENICO MODUGNO

Domenico Modugno, Italian songwriter and singer, died at his home on Lampedusa, an Italian island south of Sicily, on August 6 aged 66. He was born on January 9, 1928.

DOMENICO MODUGNO co-wrote and sang "Volare", an Italian pop song which became one of the biggest and most enduring international hits of the 1950s, selling an estimated 30 million copies around the world and conjuring up, for a mass audience, the romantic appeal of Italy.

Dean Martin was the most successful of countless cover versions, with English lyrics provided by Mitchell Parish — a master lyricist who wrote the words for vocal versions of Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust" and Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade".

The song won the top prize at the 1958 San Remo music festival and earned Modugno the first of three Grammy awards. Charlie Drake was among those who recorded "Volare" and in later years it was revived by Bobby Rydell in the 1960s, Al Martino in the 1970s and David Bowie in the 1980s movie *Absolute Beginners*. In between it remained standard musical fare in Italian restaurants from Naples to New York, and only last week was being touted by an advertising agency as a possible replacement for the Italian national anthem.

Domenico Modugno and the co-writer, Franco Migliacci, said the song had been inspired by the work of the artist Marc Chagall. The original and official title was "Nel blu dipinto di blu" (In Blue Painted Blue) but the words of its opening lyrics and chorus, "Volare" (To Fly) proved to be more memorable.

Domenico Modugno was born in Polignano a Mare in the southern region of Puglia. He abandoned his education after secondary school to seek a career as a film actor. He passed an entrance examination to drama school but after doing his National Service, his acting career was overtaken



by his success as a singer, performing songs he wrote himself.

In 1957 his composition "Lazzarella" was a runner-up in the 1957 Neapolitan Song Festival and, a year after the success of "Volare", he again came first at the festival with his song "Piove". This was another international hit. The English version being called "Ciao Ciao Bambino". His other hits — though lesser ones — were "Addio Addio" and in 1966, "Dio Come Ti Amo" and an Italian version of "Mack the Knife".

His career spanned three decades and he became one of Italy's most loved entertainers. In all, more than 60 million copies of his songs were sold. His performing career was halted in 1984 when he suffered a stroke that left him partially

paralysed down his left side for several years.

He entered politics with the maverick Radical Party in 1987, serving four years in parliament first as a deputy and then as a senator, battling for the rights of the disabled. He resumed his musical career in 1991 with appearances at the Caracalla Baths in Rome and the Carnegie Hall in New York.

A heart attack eventually brought his singing career to an end but not before a final performance last summer in his home town. This appearance brought about a reconciliation with the people of Puglia, who had for long resented the fact that when he started out as a singer he had described himself as Sicilian. Domenico Modugno is survived by his wife Franca.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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Andrew Davies: searching for love on the small screen



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Rosso Fiorentino: hero figure or neurotic desperado?



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Graham Searjeant on an economic policy that will work

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THE TIMES

MONDAY AUGUST 8 1994

Resilient late-order batting rescues South Africa in Headingley Test match



Hick deposits Gary Kirsten over the boundary for six during the second Test at Headingley yesterday

England squander winning position

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (fourth day of five): England, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 174 runs ahead of South Africa

THIS Test match has reared and tormented England. They spent three days diligently earning a winning position and a single session recklessly disowning it.

On Saturday, the renowned resilience of South Africa's middle order had loosened England's grip on the game. All credit to them. But yesterday, England bowled as if they no longer believed they could win, much less knew how to go about it.

These South Africans may still be new boys in the big time but they already have a well-merited reputation for salvage operations.

The recovery on Saturday, from 105 for five, was just the latest example of the trend. Jonty Rhodes, Peter Kirsten and McMillan are formidable batsmen and, though their bowling was uneven, there was no discredit in England's position.

When the fourth day began, they needed to take three remaining wickets quickly, then trust their bat-

ting to set up a positive declaration. The plan went awry from the first ball, a timid half-volley from an evidently stiff-limbed Fraser.

Mathews, starting the day on nought, drove it unerringly for four. From the other end, DeFreitas bowled two disorientated overs for 15 runs, had a sulk and was banished for the rest of the session while Gough's insistence on a diet of bouncers and yorkers cost him 53 runs in ten overs.

DeFreitas had been the best bowler on Saturday, his

No 9, can seldom have been given such an easy ride. He might have been having a net and instructing the bowlers to serve up wide half-volleys so he could practise his off-drive.

Atherton was powerless, as a captain can be when his bowlers let him down. After 45 minutes' play, 55 runs and no wickets, he summoned Tufnell, and Mathews deposited him for six on to the press box guttering that Atherton was obviously referring to the other evening. Tufnell then went over the wicket, pitching in the

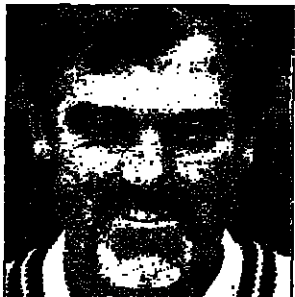
score and the England lead was down to a mere 30.

Fitness reports preceded the next phase. Gough, who had been off the field with a hamstring strain, was deemed fit to bat with a runner but Donald was ruled out of the rest of the match. He has a cyst under the bone in his right big toe and will have further tests today before it is decided if he can play any further part in the tour.

His absence used the threat of an England collapse and an unimaginable opening for South Africa to win. Nevertheless, England were 57 for two at tea, living dangerously. Atherton, his weight not quite over the ball, drove de Villiers to short extra-cover and Gough fell in the twenties for the fourth consecutive innings, this time to Mathews.

The final session, at least, belonged to England. Graeme Hick and Graham Thorpe added 87, Hick purporting periods of introspection with shots of pedigree while Thorpe batted with the same conviction he had shown in the first innings. Two off-driven fours in an over from McMillan were as distinguished as anything seen in the match.

Already, Thorpe is past his second fifty of the match, playing in a way that might have meant so much more but for those two mortifying hours before lunch. As it is, Atherton has to make the best of a botched job, and his bowlers will surely have insufficient time to make amends.



'Gatting is still much too assertive a player to be written off'

John Woodcock, page 25

rough outside leg stump, and McMillan was bowled around his legs.

Now, surely, England would cover their embarrassment and reassert. Instead, the last two wickets added a further 56 and even Donald, batting with a runner, was able to join Peter Kirsten and Mathews in making his best Test score. By the time DeFreitas was recalled after lunch to dismiss Donald, the last five wickets had more than trebled the South Africa

HEADINGLEY SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 main sections: ENGLAND: First Innings 477-9 dec (M A Atherton 98, A J Stewart 68, G P Thorpe 72, S J Rhodes 65 not out) and SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings. Includes batting and bowling statistics for both teams.



The Fourth Innings of our First Class XI cricket game is nearly over. To play, turn to page 24

Wariso steps on the gas and makes embarrassingly speedy exit

The naivety of Solomon was exposed yesterday when Solomon Wariso, Britain's most improved athlete this year, confessed to a drugs offence. It is the second time in three seasons that a British sprinter has been involved in a drugs controversy at the start of an international championship.

Wariso's offence has ruled him out of the European championships in Helsinki and the Commonwealth Games in British Columbia a fortnight hence. After returning a positive A sample, he admitted taking a banned substance before the result of the B sample, which is needed before an athlete can be said to have failed a test, was known.

Two years ago, at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Jason Liv-

ington was announced as having failed a drugs test from a sample taken prior to the Games. Livingston was found positive for steroids and banned for four years.

The timing of the disclosure yesterday that Wariso, 27, had returned a positive sample from the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) grand prix second division meeting at Gateshead on July 1 - after taking pills only 30 minutes before he lined up for a 200 metres - is embarrassing for the British Athletic Federation (BAF).

It left Professor Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, having to remind athletes to check carefully the ingredients of anything they may take and angry at the time taken by the drug-testing laboratory in providing results. It

David Powell, athletics correspondent, investigates the folly of the latest sprinter to run foul of drugs

was all the more uncomfortable considering that Wariso is a freelance journalist and a graduate in biotechnology.

Wariso, the Amateur Athletic Association 200 metres champion, took two pills containing ephedrine, a stimulant that carries an automatic suspension of three months. He said he did not know that the pills, which go under the name of Up Your Gas, contained ephedrine, although he might have been alerted by the label that pronounced the herbal formula as "the wildest and craziest product around" and "wait until you feel the kick it delivers".

The offending ingredient was said to be Ma Huang, which, according to Malcolm Brown, the Great Britain team doctor, is a Chinese ephedra containing ephedrine. Yet Wariso did not seek medical advice but took the word of an athlete who provided him with the pills - "one of my closest friends" - who apparently told him that taking it would not result in a failed test. Wariso declined to name the two athletes from whom he said he had obtained the pills brought back from Florida, but added that they were "here now".

The BAF has accepted Wariso's

word. "It is a mistake that was made and a mistake which, by withdrawing him from this competition, he will pay a heavy price for," Radford said.

Whether Wariso should have had to pay that price without an immediate appeal to the IAAF was questioned by Linford Christie, the Great Britain team captain. "I think he should be allowed to go in front of these people and explain as I did," Christie said. Christie was referring to the 1988 Olympics when traces of pseudo-ephedrine were found in his body, but his explanation of it being due to him drinking ginseng tea was accepted. However, in Seoul the International Olympic Committee drugs commission met every day whereas the IAAF commission is not doing so here.

Wariso, of the Haringey club, has set career-best times this season in the 100, 200 and 400 metres. Before Gateshead, he attributed his improvement to increasing his training to six days a week and hard work. He is the second sprinter to test positive for pseudo-ephedrine here: Aham Okkeke, the Nigerian 100 metres runner, has also been banned from the championships.

Livingston has escaped a life ban after a second drugs offence that could have ended his career. Livingston had refused to take a test at his home earlier this year but the BAF decided this weekend on a reprimand rather than an extended ban.

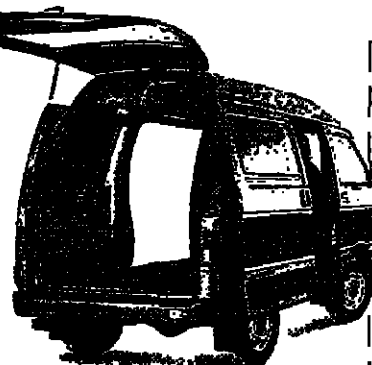
Unwise Solomon, page 1 Christie through, page 20



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# Anton's late kick pays dividends with gold

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN HELSINKI

FINLAND, steeped in a tradition of distance running from Nurmi to Viren, will always welcome a good 10,000 metres and, yesterday, they saw a race as absorbing as any this season, never mind the world record in Oslo last month by William Sigei, of Kenya.

With the Africans away, the Europeans will play, and it was cat and mouse all the way to the bell in the first track final of the sixteenth European championships. With five laps of the 25 remaining, 18 athletes were in contention; with three laps left, 12 athletes were bunched together; at the bell, nine men were within a second of each other.

For most of the last lap, it looked as though Vincent Rousseau, the Rotterdam marathon winner, would give Belgium the gold medal. He kicked with 350 metres to go and, though Stephane Franke, of Germany, hung on down the back straight, Rousseau kicked again with 150 metres



Machada: courage

remaining and looked to have the race won. However, Abel Anton, a Spaniard with no notable success at the distance for seven years, came with a strong last 100 metres to pass the fading Rousseau 20 strides from home.

Anton was grateful for a slow, tactical race. "I would have been beaten in a fast race," he said. He recorded a personal best of 28min 6.03sec that, by African standards, would be a training run. However, after a succession of world records by Africans this season — at 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 metres — it made a welcome change to see manoeuvres at work. Rousseau was second in 28min 06.63sec and Franke third in 28:07.95.

That Rousseau was on the track at all would not have been predicted in the morning when the weather was hot and

humid, as it has been here for most of the summer. He had been saying on Saturday that he would not line up if conditions were hot and they had been for the women's marathon at lunchtime.

Such is the regard in which Rousseau is held in Belgium that his national federation entered him on his terms. "They agreed that, if it was hot, I would not run. I never run well in the hot weather," he said. So strict is his rule about competing only in the relative cool that when he signs for the Rotterdam marathon, where he ran 2hr 07min 51sec last April, he has it written into the contract he will not run if the temperature is above 17 degrees.

Anton can claim some responsibility for helping Spain to win the Olympic 1,500 metres title in Barcelona in 1992. Coached by Enrique Pascual, he recommended him to Fernan Cacho, who took up the suggestion and went on to win the gold medal.

Anton is part of a system that must be the envy of British distance runners. He is paid \$40,000 a year to live and train as a full-time athlete. For his victory here, he will receive a \$10,000 bonus. Gary Staines, the leading British runner, survived with the pace for all but the last three laps and finished fifteenth in 28min 25.60sec.

The first European championship marathon for women was held in 1982 and Rosa Mota, the winner then, completed a hat-trick of titles by taking gold medals in 1986 and 1990. Now retired, Portugal's flag was taken up by Manuela Machado, who won in 2hr 29min 54sec.

Brave front-running in last year's world championships failed when she was overtaken in the last few kilometres and she finished second to Junko Asari, of Japan, but she made sure there would be no repeat yesterday, striking for home from the halfway point and stoutly defending her lead against attacks from Maria Curatolo, of Italy, and Adriana Barbu, of Romania.

Though the grimace on Machado's face over the last few miles suggested an athlete suffering, she lightened up once inside the stadium and clear of her pursuers. Nine times she blew kisses to the crowd and, as she finished, she sank to her knees with relief and kissed the track in delight.



Christie, third from camera, begins his quest for a third consecutive European 100 metres title in Helsinki yesterday

## Christie quick to set out his stall

FROM DAVID POWELL

DRUGS stories about sprinters come and go, but old man Christie keeps rolling along. Inford Christie, the oldest Olympic 100 metres champion, will today, unless injury strikes, be crowned European champion for the third time, at the age of 34.

Christie was by far the most impressive qualifier from the first two rounds yesterday and enters the semi-finals and, presumably, the final this evening with almost 0.2sec to spare over the second-fastest athlete, Geir Moen, of Norway. After winning his first-

round heat in an unhurried 10.39sec, Christie demonstrated his supremacy in the second by recording 10.08sec with the help of a marginal following wind.

Kenneth Kjenstad, the Norwegian, adjacent to him, made the better start and Christie did not lead until 30 metres. By 50 metres, the Briton was clearly in front and, by 90 metres, he had sufficient advantage to start easing down.

Christie had been up until last arguing the case for Solomon Wariso to be allowed to compete here. Wariso returned a positive A sample from a drugs test and was

withdrawn from the team by the British Athletic Federation, but Christie felt that, in his capacity as Great Britain men's team captain, he should put the case for Wariso not to be dropped, since the result of the B sample was not known, or for an instant appeal to be made. Wariso is the latest in a line of drugs controversies surrounding sprinters, notably Ben Johnson and the first Briton to be banned, Jason Livingston.

Despite being late to bed, Christie showed no sign of weariness: nor did he show any trace of the hamstring injury which had prevented

him from competing for the last three weeks.

Moen, who recorded 10.27sec, and Aleksandr Porokhomovskiy, of Russia, look the likeliest candidates for silver and bronze. Britain's other two representatives, Toby Fox and Jason John, will join Christie in the semi-finals. John was third in the second heat in 10.37sec and Fox was second in the fourth heat in 10.35sec.

The women's 100 metres final, also today, should be close, but Irina Privalova, of Russia, should emerge victorious over Zhanna Tarnopolskaya, of Ukraine.

### RESULTS FROM HELSINKI

<b>Men</b> 100 METRES: Second round (first four to semi-finals). Heat 1: 1. L. Christie (GB) 10.08; 2. A. Torsan (GB) 10.37; 3. D. Dole (Swi) 10.35; 4. K. Kena (Nor) 10.37. Heat 2: 1. A. Porokhomovskiy (Rus) 10.27; 2. G. Moen (Nor) 10.27; 3. J. John (GB) 10.37; 4. K. Kena (Nor) 10.37. Heat 3: 1. M. Machado (Por) 10.31; 2. J. Curatolo (Ita) 10.31; 3. D. Dole (Swi) 10.31; 4. K. Kena (Nor) 10.31. Heat 4: 1. M. Machado (Por) 10.31; 2. J. Curatolo (Ita) 10.31; 3. D. Dole (Swi) 10.31; 4. K. Kena (Nor) 10.31.	<b>10,000 METRES:</b> 1. A. Anton (Spa) 28min 06.03; 2. V. Rousseau (Bel) 28:06.63; 3. S. Franke (Ger) 28:07.95; 4. R. Staines (GB) 28:08.05; 5. P. Cacho (Esp) 28:10.18; 6. J. Junquera (Por) 28:10.35; 7. J. Pineda (Col) 28:10.73; 8. C. de la Torre (Col) 28:10.76; 9. S. Franke (Ger) 28:10.82; 10. J. Hobs (GB) 28:10.88.	<b>400 METRES:</b> Heat 1: 1. S. Dumas (Fr) 1:00.27; 2. M. Burke (GB) 1:01.31; 3. D. Coughlin (GB) 1:01.41; 4. M. Burke (GB) 1:01.41; 5. S. Dumas (Fr) 1:01.41; 6. M. Burke (GB) 1:01.41; 7. S. Dumas (Fr) 1:01.41; 8. M. Burke (GB) 1:01.41; 9. S. Dumas (Fr) 1:01.41; 10. M. Burke (GB) 1:01.41.	<b>800 METRES:</b> Heat 1: 1. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 2. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 3. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 4. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 5. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 6. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 7. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 8. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 9. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05; 10. A. S. Dumas (Fr) 2:02.05.
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## THE TIMES

### Win a round with a top professional

One of Britain's most challenging golf courses tees off the start of The Murphy's English Open, with a Pro-Am Spot competition on August 16, and you could win the chance to partner one of the world's top players.



Ian Woosnam will be on hand to defend his title

Murphy's will also provide the winner and a partner with a night at the Forest of Arden Hotel, Country Club Resort, Warwickshire on Tuesday, August 16 (and Wednesday 17, if the winner lives a long distance away). The prize includes passes for the winner and a guest, invitations to the Pro-Am cocktail party which is followed by dinner at Packington Hall. You will also take away with you a commemorative team photograph and a selection of Murphy's goodies. As part of the prize, the winner will be entitled to use any of the hotel's many facilities, including the swimming pool, health club, sauna, jacuzzi and two golf courses.

**HOW TO WIN**  
To win this memorable prize, find the answers to the three questions printed below and then ring the competition hotline. To be eligible the contestant must be over 18 years old and have a recognised handicap of 18 or under.

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2. Who was runner-up at this year's British Open?
3. What have The Murphy's English Open and the Ryder Cup Championship got in common?

Phone in your answers on 0891 66 55 04 up to midnight on Tuesday August 9

You will be asked to give your three answers and your name, address and daytime telephone number. The winner will be selected from all the correct entries received by the closing date and will be notified by telephone. Normal Times competition rules apply. Calls are charged at 39p a minute (cheap rate 20p) and 49p a minute at all other times.

## Bowman misses target but happily settles for silver

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN THE HAGUE

GEORGE Bowman lifted British morale on the last day of the World Equestrian Games here when, after a faultless round in yesterday's obstacle driving, he and his team of Cumberland Cobbs took the individual silver medal in the world driving championships behind Germany's national champion, Michael Freund. Isbrandt Chardon, of Holland, the former world champion, took the bronze medal.

"I'll be back for the gold in the year 2,000," Bowman shouted cheerfully after leaving the arena. Though delighted to have a medal around his neck, it is not the colour the 59-year-old former scrap metal dealer intended. Since winning his first individual silver at Windsor in 1980, the world title has remained his aim.

Having come close two years ago — when he lost the gold on a technicality — Bowman came to these championships more determined than ever. By the end of Saturday's marathon phase, he was lying second to Freund. Only 3.5 points, less than the cost of one mistake in yesterday's final phase, separated them.

The obstacle driving is a nerve-wracking affair. The 20 obstacles consist of cones set 1.90 metres apart, each with a small white ball balanced on top. The drivers have to steer their 1.90 metre-wide carriages through the obstacles without displacing a ball.

With the competitors going in reverse order of merit, Chardon, lying in third place, put the pressure on the leaders with a clear round — to the joy of the home crowd.

It was into this highly charged atmosphere that Bowman, the next to go, rode. If he made one mistake, he would drop out of the medals. Though his supporters could barely watch, Bowman betrayed no sign of nerves as he guided his four cobs — Victor, Bob, Timber and Jack — safely through the 20 obstacles.

Later yesterday, the Germans completed their domination of these games when Franke Sloothaak won the world individual show jumping championships. It was Germany's seventh gold medal from a possible 14.

Michel Robert, of France, the only non-German in the four-horse final, won the individual silver medal. Soeren von Roenne came third.

Though the formula for the individual world championships — whereby the top finalists ride each others horses — has been criticised, Sloothaak's credentials are impeccable. The 36-year-old Dutch-born rider, who won a team gold medal at the 1988 Olympic Games and a silver medal at the 1991 European championships, made only one mistake in nine jumping rounds over four days.

Britain's sorry championships continued on Saturday night when Michael Whitaker, the only Briton to reach the qualifying round for yesterday's final, had 12 faults on Everest Midnight Madness.



Bowman leads his driving team to silver yesterday

## Morris adds silver to her medal tally

TESSA Morris — who had won, with Liz Henshaw, Great Britain's first women's junior medal, a bronze, in 1993 — took the silver medal in the coxless fours at the world junior rowing championships in Munich on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). The crew, which was "a very professional group", according to its coach, Louise Kingsley, was fifth in the final at 500 metres and fourth at 1,000 metres, before producing the fastest second 1,000 metres of the whole field, passing Canada and Germany. By the end, Romania, with four double silver medal-winners on board, were pleased to see the line.

It was a record-breaking day for the British junior team, which finished with four sets of medals against the previous best total of three. The coxless fours' silver was coupled with three bronze-medal performances. In the men's eight, men's quadruple sculls and women's coxless pairs. All three crews missed silver medals by narrow margins.

## Rees ends German reign

MOTOR RACING: Gareth Rees, of Britain, won the Masters of Formula Three invitation race at the Zandvoort circuit in Holland yesterday. Since David Coulthard, from Scotland, won the inaugural event four years ago, the race has been dominated by German teams, with victory going to Pedro Lamy and Jos Verstappen, who have, like Coulthard, since graduated to Formula One.

Although Rees lies third in Britain's premier single-seater series, he went to Holland without a win. He made a superb start, however, that took him into the lead, ahead of Jorg Muller, of Germany. The former British Formula Ford champion controlled the race from the front, slowing his German rival in the corners and forcing him to fight for position with Sascha Maassen, of Germany, who was third.

## Barada claims crown

SQUASH: Amed Barada, 17, beat Omar El Borollosy in an all-Egypt — indeed, all-Cairo — final 9-0, 7-9, 3-9, 9-2 to take the world junior men's championship in Christchurch, New Zealand (Colin McQuillan writes). No Egyptian had gone beyond the quarter-finals of the event before, Ian Higgins, 17, from Essex, lost in the semi-finals to El Borollosy and then in the third-place play-off, on Saturday, by 7-9, 9-7, 9-6, 9-6 to Thierry Lincou, of France. The England squad opened the team championship with a 3-0 win over New Zealand.

## Bruguera takes charge

TENNIS: Sergi Bruguera, the No 1 seed, won the Czech Open for the third successive time in Prague yesterday, beating Andrei Medvedev, the No 2 seed, 6-3, 6-4. Bruguera, the world No 3, broke Medvedev early in both sets of the final, capitalising on unforced errors by the usually steady Ukrainian. Bruguera had lost three consecutive finals in Medvedev.

Coran Ivanovic, the world No 2, came from two sets to one down to beat the seeded Fabrice Santoro, of France, 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 to win the men's tournament in Kitzbuhel.

## Ellison in starring role

CRICKET: Old Tonbridgeians avenged their defeat by Old Cliftonians last year, winning the Beachcroft Stanley's Cricket Cup final by eight wickets with five overs to spare at Vincent Square, Westminster yesterday (Ivo Tennant writes). There was one Kent player involved and he was indisputably man of the match, Richard Ellison, who languishes in the county's second XI these days, took four wickets, ran out Meadows, the Cliftonians captain, in their total of 169, and then made an unbeaten 55 with seven fours in Tonbridgeians' 172 for two.

## Parry defeats Germans

SWIMMING: Stephen Parry, of Liverpool, won the European junior title at 200 metres butterfly in Pardubice, Czech Republic, on Saturday (Craig Lord writes). Flanked by strong opposition from Germany, Parry, 17, ploughed a perfect course to his first international title, winning in 2min 02.51sec, 0.2sec ahead of Sven Rehe. Parry's was, disappointingly, the only individual swimming medal for Britain, although James Mountford, 15, of the Highgate club, collected a gold medal in the highboard diving event earlier in the week.

## Barel finishes in style

TRIATHLON: Rob Barel, from Holland, has won the European championship in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, in his final season before retirement. His hundredth competitive victory was a fitting triumph for him who has dominated the sport in Europe since winning his first European title in 1985. The gold medal for women in the event, which comprised a 25-kilometre swim, 80-kilometre cycle and 20-kilometre run that took place in soaring temperatures, was won by Isabelle Mouthon, of France, who last week won the inaugural triathlon at the Goodwill Games.

## Austrians take over

HANG GLIDING: Austria ended 14 years of British success in the European championships yesterday when they won the team title in Laragne, France. Britain, who never looked likely to retain their title, finished sixth overall, with John Pendry finishing third in the individual competition. Pendry, who had been European champion since 1986, was beaten by the world champion, Tomas Suchanek, of the Czech Republic, and Manfred Rulmer, of Austria. Suchanek won by two points after finishing 20 seconds earlier than the Austrian in the 88-kilometre race.

### Answers from page 36

- TREVALLY**  
(b) A signal made by beating the drum, also attributed to a trevally, perhaps a corruption of revellie. "We heard a small drum discharged, and after that a drum beating a trevally."
- UPANISHAD**  
(c) In Sanskrit literature, one or other of various speculative treatises chiefly dealing with the Deity, creation, and existence, and forming a division of the Vedic literature. From the Sanskrit upa, near to, and shad, to sit or lie down. "Dark became a student of Sanskrit, and translated the Upanishads into Persian in the year 1657."
- ANCONA**  
(d) An altar-piece, especially one consisting of a group of pictures or painted panels connected by architectural sculpture, etymology uncertain, perhaps an alteration of the Greek *ankon*, the accusative of *ankra*, an image. "The work is neither more nor less than an ancona, which is different in kind as well as style from a triptych. Altar-piece would be a correct term here."
- EULER**  
(b) From the name of Leonard Euler, the celebrated Swiss mathematician, 1707-83, used in combination with the possessive to designate principles, effects discovered by him or arising out of his work. "Recent researches, in relation to the new analytical theory of imaginary quantities, have revived attention to Euler's theorem, that the sum of four squares multiplied by the sum of four squares produces the sum of four squares."
- SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
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# Akehurst's talented grey blazes the trail

By JULIAN MUSCAT

REG Akehurst's fine season was neatly encapsulated when his grey Urgent Request put some talented rivals to the sword in the group three Burtonwood Brewery Rose of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock on Saturday.

The Epsom trainer's hall-mark has been the improvement wrought from a succession of handicappers, none more so than Urgent Request, who, on this most recent to the highest class.

Any horse able enough to run rings around the likes of Cezanne and Luthak has to be taken seriously. The offers

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DEVOTEE

Next best: Stephenson's Rocket (7.15 Thirsk)

have been flooding in from American-based owners, and Akehurst can expect renewed interest after the son of Rainbow Quest demolished the course record en route to his five-length victory.

The cash will be tempting, although Stewart Aitken, the retired casino proprietor who owns Urgent Request, will have long been accustomed to games of high stakes.

Aitken, however, has no intention of quitting while in front. He gave \$2,000 guineas for the four-year-old at last year's Tannerville Autumn Sales. By his own admission, he has rejected offers of £250,000 for his habitual front-runner, who would be perfectly suited to the de-

mands of racing in the United States. "The owner likes to have the odd decent horse about," Akehurst said yesterday. "Stewart follows the game closely: he went to the sales and bought Urgent Request all on his own."

The horse was affected by a viral complaint last term, when Barry Hills trained him for Khaled Abdullah. If the Saudi-based patron harbours any regrets about selling Urgent Request, they will be balanced by the inevitable interest such sale will generate in his regular assignment to the Newmarket auction.

To Abdullah, a more valuable loss would have been Bolas, the subsequent Irish Oaks winner, who so nearly passed through the same auction ring months ago. The episode clearly illustrates that keeping the lid on training fees by a policy of ruthless culling is fraught with dangers.

After his triumph on Saturday, Akehurst has been forced to drastically revise the programme mapped out for Urgent Request. The Champion Stakes is on the agenda, although Akehurst conceded that the straight ten furlongs at Newmarket was far from ideal for his free-running colt. Another option is the Hong Kong Invitational Cup over nine furlongs in December, a race worth £247,000 to the winner 12 months ago.

Such dilemmas will be welcome to Akehurst, who has made the domain of the competitive handicapper all his own. Having saddled 32 winners, he remains on course to eclipse his previous best total of 48, but his prize-money haul of £350,000 is already a benchmark.



Eva Luna retains her unbeaten record with a fine victory in the Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown

## British hopes eclipsed by Eva Luna

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

BRITISH juvenile form was dealt a blow at Leopardstown yesterday as the unbeaten Jim Bolger-trained Eva Luna led a clean sweep for the home team in the group one Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes.

The Mick Channon-trained Silca Blanka fared best of the visitors, finishing fourth, with the Norfolk Stakes winner, Mind Games, in fifth and Frankie Dettori's mount, Follow, sixth.

General Monash, who started favourite, found nothing under pressure, finishing eighth of the ten runners, but was later found to be lame behind. Eva Luna's performance earned her a 161-point as joint-favourite with Red Carnal for next year's 1,000 Guinees.

Ridden by Kevin Manning, Eva Luna disputed the early lead with Mind Games, but two furlongs from home she moved up several gears to draw clear and beat the Michael Kinane-trained Sharp

Point by 1½ lengths, with Eva Luna's stable companion, Desert Style, 3½ lengths back in third.

The visitors were suitably impressed. "The winner is some machine. I'd love to have her in my yard," Jack Berry, the trainer of Mind Games, said. "The softish ground did us no favours," Berry added, and he will now aim Mind Games at the Gimcrack Stakes.

Bolger said two months ago that Eva Luna is as good a juvenile filly as he has trained, and his high opinion of her was emphatically endorsed. "The Moyglare Stud Stakes is next on the agenda for her. The Irish 1,000 is a definite target next year and, possibly, the English 1,000," Bolger said.

Bolger's other runner, Desert Style, impressed Walter Swinburn, who said: "I love him. They were just going that bit quick for him as he's really a seven furlong-mile horse." Bolger said of his colt: "I expect him to win a group one some time in his career." The National

Stakes at the Curragh or the Dewhurst at Newmarket are possible options.

John Reid was very disappointed with General Monash, who made a slight gurgling noise pulling up after the race. "He ran terribly. He was beaten at the right up to then but when I asked, he took a stride left and was gone," Reid said. Frankie Dettori had a similar tale to tell about the visored Follow. "He ran no race," the young Italian said.

In contrast, British raiders filled the first three places in the Phoenix Sprint Stakes, with the Richard Hannon-trained Surprise Off easily beating the strong favourite, Piccolo, by 5½ lengths, with Nymphidia two lengths back in third.

"That was a bit of a shock," said the winning jockey, Swinburn, who was celebrating his 33rd birthday. Hannon was equally surprised. "I didn't think we'd beat Piccolo, but the ground probably helped," he said.

## Winter drought is pitfall for summer jumps

The viability of summer jumps racing, recently sanctioned by the British Horseracing Board (BHB) for a two-year trial, has already aroused considerable scepticism even though we are a full ten months from the first fixture at Perth.

Opponents of the scheme point to the scarcity of runners at last week's jumping fixtures as evidence of a singular lack of demand for additional summer meetings. They have a point, but only to a degree.

As supporters of the experiment remind us, the August jumps programme has always unfolded to a handful of runners at popular holiday spots like Exeter and Newton Abbot, where fast ground is par for the course.

They point out that a horse spending his summer out at grass cannot be prepared in time for these fixtures. And they add that, with a structured summer programme in place, they can now divide their stables into two distinct types: the traditional winter performer and the less robust, flat-bred graduates who should adequately cope with fast ground.

The logic of this is incontrovertible, except that it fails to take account of one inevitable consequence. If whole herds of fast-ground performers are to be roughed off in winter, will there be enough horses to contest the full winter programme already in place? Given that the summer horses will be resting at grass, they too, will be unable to be ready at short notice during a winter drought.

Indeed, what will be the scenario should the winter rains desert us, as has happened on more than one occasion in recent seasons? The mudlarks will be confined to base and the good-ground horses will be in the

JULIAN MUSCAT

Racing commentary

BHB's experiment. Several horses are prevented from realising their true potential on account of a conformational defect.

As they slide down the ranks, winning opportunities become fewer and connections will point them to the lowest class of race. The chances are they will end up jumping hurdles at the summer fixtures.

It is surely ominous that the last time such an equine congregation assembled was for all-weather races over hurdles, which brought the racing game into disrepute. Come next summer, we must hope that the BHB's faith in the ability of racecourses to provide well-watered ground is not misplaced.

## Group one victory for River North

RIVER North, trained by Lady Herries, gained the biggest success of his career when winning the group one ESI 712 Anal Pokal at Gelsenkirchen-Horst yesterday.

Ridden by Kevin Darley, River North, a 64-length, beat Monsun by 2½ lengths, with Snurge a further six lengths away in third. "We may bring him back here for another group one later in the year. We would not risk him on fast ground, but they have watered heavily and the track was in good condition today," Lady Herries said.

On the same programme, Hever Golf Rose gave Joe Naughton, the Epsom trainer, his first winner in Germany in the listed £7,732 Silberne Peitsche.

At Hoppegarten, Sharp Prod, ridden by Lester Piggott, attempted to make all the running in the group three Grosser Preis von Berlin, but was caught in the final furlong by Munajir.

The feature race at Deauville yesterday, the group two Prix de Pomme, was won by the Andre Fabre-trained Bright Moon. Sent off the 24 on favourite, he proved too strong in the closing stages for Roger Charlton's Wandasta, winning by 2½ lengths.

FLAT LEADERS

TRAINERS

JOCKEYS

Trainer	Jockey	Win	Place	Loss
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## WINDSOR

THUNDERER

4.00 Rock Legend

4.30 Soric Boy

5.00 Leonora

5.30 Mooraji

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

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2.30 STRATFIELD SAYE SELLING STAKES

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## GUIDE TO OUR RACES

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Racecard member. Draw in brackets. Age in parentheses. Sex in parentheses. Colour in parentheses. S - stallion. G - gelding. B - broodmare. V - veteran. H - horse. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD - course and distance.

4.30 JUNIORS CONDITIONS STAKES

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## THUNDERER

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GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

SIS

2.15 MINOR NOVICES SELLING HURDLE

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## 3.15 ENIGMA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS

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# Lack of over enthusiasm spoils Test of nerve



**JOHN WOODCOCK**  
Test Match Commentary

Neither side has done enough, yet, to deserve to win the second Test match at Headingley, South Africa because of their almost total disregard for spin bowling and England because they have been unable to mount a sustained attack either with bat or ball.

In many ways, it has been a thoroughly good game of Test cricket — fluctuating, well-attended, unmarred by controversy and intense. If anything like a decent number of overs had been bowled in the past four days — I am sorry to go on about this, but it is wholly germane — the prospect of victory for one side or the other would be that much better.

What amounted not very long ago to a full five-day match, consisting of, say, 560 overs, would now take nearer to 6½ days to complete, the difference, that is, between 112 overs a day and the present average of 86 to 87.

England batted in their first innings as though engaged in a five-day match played at the old tempo rather than the present one. However, the game has certainly had its good points for them and, coming after Lord's, that is a great relief.

The presence of a sixth specialist batsman has meant much to both sides. Raymond Illingworth began his term as chairman of the England selectors hoping to make do with five, but England have had a

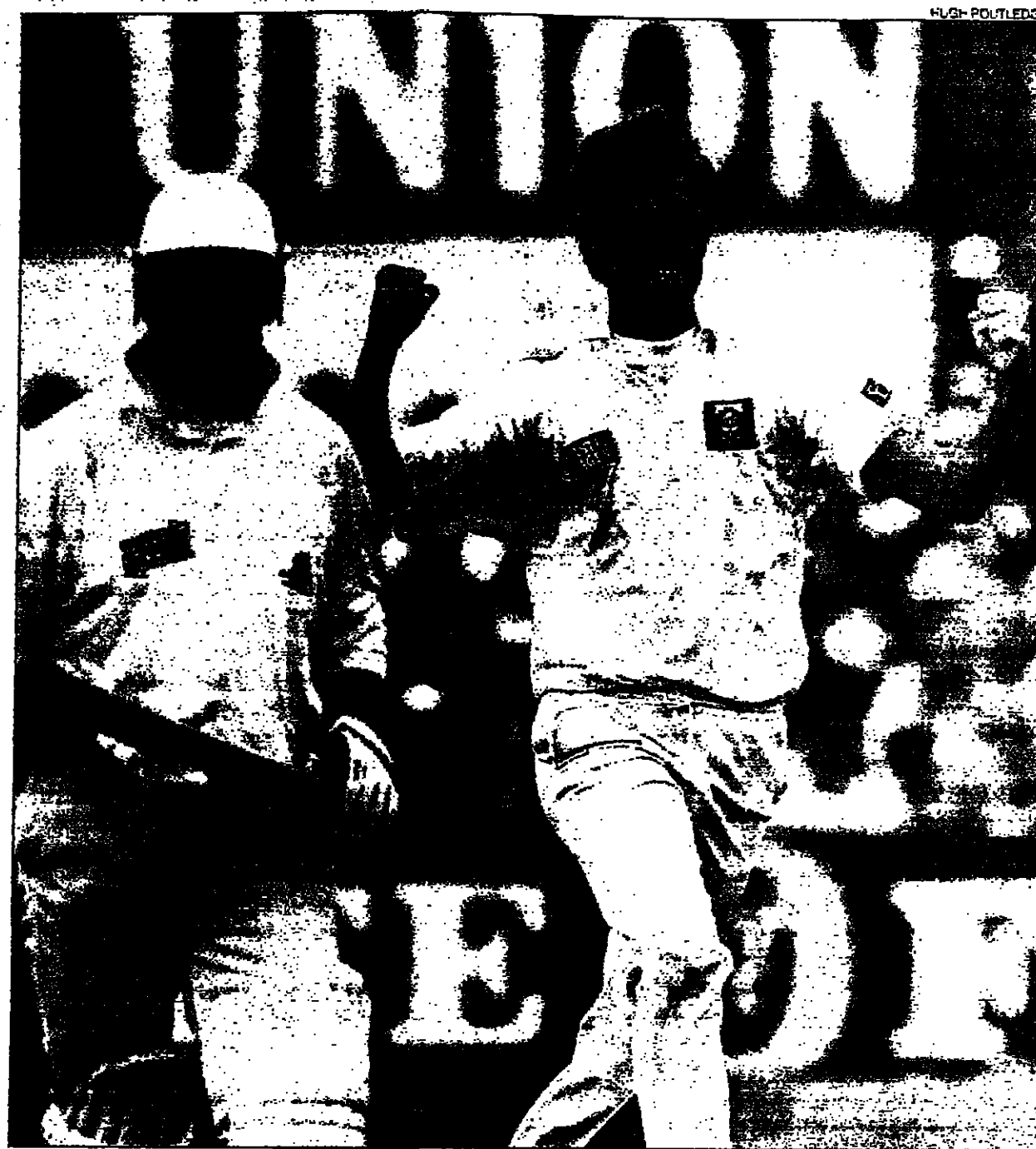
more solid look about them with Crawley at No 6 rather than White.

What it means is that, in the field, Ashcroft is going to have to make do and mend more than he cares for, and that will involve the likes of Gooch and Hick, who bowled only five overs between them in South Africa's total of 447.

Perhaps because it was Headingley, I was reminded of the way Norman Yardley was brought into service as a Test bowler, although he was seldom needed in that capacity by Yorkshire. Like Gooch, he bowled little swing. In 1946, he took six wickets for Yorkshire at 55 apiece. In the Test matches in Australia that winter, he took ten at 38 apiece, including Don Bradman's, not once, but three times in a row. With the right sort of urging and encouragement, Gooch and Hick could help Ashcroft out more than he realises.

Much has been said about the England batting order, and Stewart has good reason to be miffed at being made to drop down to No 5 when he was such a success in West Indies while going in first. I would like to see Gooch there somewhere — he is still much too assertive a player to be written off — but we have the makings now of a side to score well in Australia this winter.

Crawley will have learnt much about Test cricket in the 158 minutes he spent at the



Matthews, of South Africa, shows delight at his dismissal of Gooch for 27 at Headingley yesterday

crease in the England first innings. The South Africans were really after him when he went in on Thursday evening, but his temperament stood up to it and there is no doubt that he can bat.

He is tougher and stronger than I knew. At Sun City in South Africa, where, each year, some of the world's leading golfers assemble to play on one of the game's most demanding courses, he is said

to have gone round in the middle 70s and to have hit the ball a country mile. He is a natural game player, in fact, and that, too, is a good sign.

The match has belonged so far to Peter Kirsten. At 39, he became, on Saturday, the second-oldest cricketer to make a maiden Test hundred, beaten by Harry Markiewicz, who played both cricket and football for England after the First World War, by a mere 89 days.

Had it not been for apartheid, Kirsten's century would probably have been something like his twentieth, but it will have felt all the better for having followed the wilderness years.

A wonderfully timely innings, courageous and fiercely professional, his 104 was made, I felt, on behalf of all those estimable and excellent cricketers who came to England to play on the county circuit during South Africa's

isolation, but never had the chance to win a Test cap: Ken McEwan, Hylton Ackermann, Vincent van der Bijl, Brian Davison (he would have qualified as a Rhodesian), Clive Rice and others.

Spare a thought, too, for Jimmy Cook, once of Somerset, who, strictly on merit, should be here now, making this an even more difficult South African side to beat than it already is.

## South Africans fuel debate on overseas players

Isn't life strange? In 1990, Fanie de Villiers spent an uneventful, indeed poor, year with Kent as one of their two overseas players. He took 25 championship wickets at 39 and nobody thought much of him, certainly not Michael Atherton, who made 100 against him at Maidstone.

Brian McMillan has also spent a season in county cricket. Warwickshire brought him over in 1986 principally as a medium-fast bowler, but, restricted by injury, he took only 17 wickets at 44. With the bat, however, he made 895 championship runs at 59, so their money was not entirely wasted.

De Villiers was 25 then, McMillan 22. Test cricket was beyond them at the time, for

reasons that require no expansion, but even if South Africa had been part of cricket's brotherhood, would anyone have imagined that these players would become important members of the team? There were many brighter stars in the firmament.

Yet here is one thing more effectively in English conditions than any native bowler (shades of Terry Alderman) and the other batting sides, nipping out key batsmen and holding magnificent slip catches. If one ever wanted evidence that character is as important to a cricketer as innate talent, here it is.

To some extent, de Villiers and McMillan must have benefited from their previous experience of England. In that



**MICHAEL HENDERSON**  
At Headingley

respect, they, and players like them, are relevant to the argument that is taking place within the English game's debating chamber. A week tomorrow, the Test and County Cricket Board will invite the 18 counties to discuss the future of the overseas player.

Those deliberations, designed in part to counter the kind of contractual haggles that have affected the Pakistanis this year, may generate more heat than light. Certainly,

it is hard to make binding rules when the requirements of counties differ so much.

"Why do we bother to import so many third-raters," Sir Thomas Becham asked, "when we have enough second-raters of our own?" He was talking about conductors, but others may see cricketers that way.

On the whole, the South Africans who have joined English counties passed that test resoundingly. Mike

Procter and Eddie Barlow transformed Gloucestershire and Derbyshire respectively, through sheer force of personality. Clive Rice put steel into Nottinghamshire. Ken McEwan contributed in full to the rise of Essex. Then there was Barry Richards, who left enough memories to enrich even the fullest life.

Were Procter 20 years younger, would he — could he — give as much as he did? Probably — he was that sort of cricketer — but the biggest names do not always justify the investment of hope and money. Richie Richardson, a proven Test batsman, gave Yorkshire little. Franklyn Stephenson, who has never played Test cricket, gave out-standing service to Notting-

hamshire and is now bowling Sussex into contention for their first championship.

Let down by Richardson and rebuffed by Craig Matthews, Yorkshire are now pursuing de Villiers. At first sight, it appears a sensible move for both parties, although Yorkshire's interminable squabbles and persistent under-achievement might sap even his spirit.

Put simply, spirit is what separates the teams. When it does not go for them, England are inclined to mope. The South Africans, who have been on the wrong end of this game from the first morning, have met the challenge of saving it and could still provide an embarrassment today. Isn't life strange?

## Slow pitch forces leaders on defensive

ALREADY this season, two England cricketers have gone to ground after adverse publicity, one slipping away to the Continent, the other to a series of Lake District hotels. Before it is out, perhaps Philip Tufnell and Michael Atherton will have been joined by all those county groundsmen who have produced pitches resembling mires or mine-fields (Simon Wilde writes).

With the championship moving towards its climax, the principal fixtures deserve better than they are getting at Worcester and Trent Bridge, where strokeplay has been put at a premium by slow, low surfaces. In both cases, the title-chasing visitors are up against it.

At Worcester, Warwickshire, the leaders, are in danger of losing today for the first time in the competition for almost a year after coming up against one of the best grafters of them all, Tim Curtis, who batted eight hours for 180. At Trent Bridge, Leicestershire, who lie third, were obstructed by Chris Lewis, who led Nottinghamshire's recovery by spending four hours over 95.

A pitch of variable bounce at Northampton enabled Sussex to win in three days, while a newly-laid but uneven surface at Canterbury — where

## Essex gain best of frenetic finale

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (Lancashire won toss): Essex (44) vs Lancashire (51) by five wickets

LANCASHIRE'S faces were as red as their garish Sunday clothes after their hopes of catching Warwickshire at the top of the AXA Equity & Law League had been dealt a devastating blow when the bottom club, Essex, beat them by five wickets with one ball to spare.

It could have been blood pressure or it could have been sheer embarrassment since either would have been in order after they had allowed Essex back into the match after an open partnership of 159 between Jason Gallian and Steve Titchard.

They still managed only 221 for four from their 40 overs and Essex, humiliated inside three days in the county championship match and beset by injury problems, seized the opportunity to lift themselves off the foot of the table with only their second win of the season.

John Stephenson, the acting captain, led the way with 73 off 82 balls and there was solid support all the way down the order from Nick Knight, Nasser Hussain, Ronnie Irani and Nadeem Shahid before Jon Lewis and Robert Rolians saw them home in the last over.

It was a frenetic finish involving two run-outs, both the result of exceptional fielding by Glen Chapple, but it reflected great credit on Essex who had rewarded their supporters by pulling themselves together in the face of adversity.

## Hooper speeds Kent to triumph

KENT moved into third place in the AXA Equity & Law Sunday League with a six-wicket defeat of Hampshire at Canterbury yesterday (Simon Wilde writes). Carl Hooper contributed the leading role, dismissing Robin Smith for 13 as Hampshire were restricted to 169 for seven and striking 56 off 65 balls as his side made their way home with 24 balls to spare. It was their fifth successive league victory.

Gloucestershire, the champions, kept up their hopes of finishing in a prize-winning position by beating Middlesex with ease at Lord's. A threadbare Middlesex attack was unable to defend a modest total of 151 for five. Hemp, who scored 73, with eight fours and a six, and Maynard put on 97 to take Gloucestershire to the brink of a victory that lifts them to joint fifth place.

Nottinghamshire surrendered a match-winning position against Leicestershire during an extraordinary collapse at Trent Bridge. In pursuit of 169, they slipped from 93 for one to 42 all out. Robinson, Downman, Lewis and Mike all failing to score. Four wickets fell to Wells, three to Mullally.

A spectacular 46 off 20 balls by Anderson Cummins swept Durham to victory with four deliveries to spare in a high-scoring match against Somerset at Taunton. Rose, who scored an unbeaten 91, and Ecclestone, who hit 66, put on 138 for Somerset's fifth wicket. Longley top-scored for the winners with 88.

## Warwickshire bow to fiercest rivals

By JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss): Worcester (44) vs Warwickshire (51) by three runs

ANYBODY who doubts the place of the 40-over match in the English cricket calendar should have been at Edgbaston yesterday. More than 10,000 people piled in to see Warwickshire, almost runaway leaders in the AXA Equity & Law Sunday League, take on their neighbours Worcester and, provided they survived the excruciatingly loud bombardment from the public address system, a good time was had by all.

Although, in the end, the better time was had by supporters of Worcestershire as their team narrowed the gap between them and their Midlands rivals by winning by three runs, there was enough in this match to satisfy even the most partisan spirit.

Right to the end, the game fluctuated wildly. If Worcestershire were disappointed with their 182 for eight scored from 38 overs, they could find succour in the innings of Gavin Haynes which held them together. If the Warwickshire opening partnership of 105 between Neil Smith and Dominic Ostler drove Worcester's supporters to distraction, they found solace in Neal Radford's searching four-wicket spell which followed, and in the way in which Illingworth's left-arm slows simultaneously tied up Brian Lara and company so that the issue long remained in doubt and led finally to Worcestershire's triumph.

Lara, disciplined and responsible, held Warwickshire together. He had his bad moments, against Illingworth especially, but he survived them. He played and missed occasionally, right to the end, but gradually he picked off the runs with a succession of partners until, with seven balls left, and eight runs required, he holed out at mid-on.

Then Worcestershire took command finally and conclusively. Warwickshire, from looking all-over winners, found the last task beyond them and, against all the odds, Worcestershire were home. Worcestershire's innings owed almost everything to the stalwart Haynes. His 76 from 104 balls — seven runs short of his career-best score in this competition — was made under extreme duress. When he came in, Worcestershire were 17 for two and ten overs from Reeve and Munton had already been bowled. By the time he left, to the last ball of the innings, Haynes had helped his team to achieve respectability with the aid of seven fours of his own and partnerships of 52 with Seymour and a late flourish worth 56 in five overs in company with D'Oliveira.

So confidently did Smith and Ostler pile on the runs during their opening partnership for Warwickshire, that the match seemed for all the world to be developing into a one-horse race. Once these two departed, however, the balance was gradually adjusted, despite Lara's continued presence at the crease.

## SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

### AXA Equity & Law League

**Derbyshire v Gloucestershire**  
Derbyshire (44) vs Gloucestershire (51) by five wickets

**Derbyshire**  
Derbyshire (44) vs Gloucestershire (51) by five wickets

**Gloucestershire**  
Gloucestershire (51) vs Derbyshire (44) by five wickets

**Middlesex v Glamorgan**  
Middlesex (44) vs Glamorgan (51) by five wickets

**Middlesex**  
Middlesex (44) vs Glamorgan (51) by five wickets

**Glamorgan**  
Glamorgan (51) vs Middlesex (44) by five wickets

**Kent v Hampshire**  
Kent (44) vs Hampshire (51) by five wickets

**Kent**  
Kent (44) vs Hampshire (51) by five wickets

**Hampshire**  
Hampshire (51) vs Kent (44) by five wickets

**Essex v Lancashire**  
Essex (44) vs Lancashire (51) by five wickets

**Essex**  
Essex (44) vs Lancashire (51) by five wickets

**Lancashire**  
Lancashire (51) vs Essex (44) by five wickets

**Warwickshire v Worcestershire**  
Warwickshire (44) vs Worcestershire (51) by three runs

**Warwickshire**  
Warwickshire (44) vs Worcestershire (51) by three runs

**Worcestershire**  
Worcestershire (51) vs Warwickshire (44) by three runs

**Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire**  
Nottinghamshire (44) vs Leicestershire (51) by five wickets

**Nottinghamshire**  
Nottinghamshire (44) vs Leicestershire (51) by five wickets

**Leicestershire**  
Leicestershire (51) vs Nottinghamshire (44) by five wickets

**Northamptonshire v Sussex**  
Northamptonshire (44) vs Sussex (51) by five wickets

**Northamptonshire**  
Northamptonshire (44) vs Sussex (51) by five wickets

**Sussex**  
Sussex (51) vs Northamptonshire (44) by five wickets

**Notts v Leics**  
Nottinghamshire (44) vs Leicestershire (51) by five wickets

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**Warwickshire v Worcestershire**  
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## THEATRE page 28

In the Heart of America:  
projecting a genuine  
sense of outrage at the  
horrors of warfare

## ARTS

## BOOKS page 29

Rosso reappraised: the  
Renaissance artist who  
challenged the greatest  
painters of his time

TELEVISION: A popular collection of short stories brought to the screen; plus, below, 25 years of life and death in Northern Ireland

# Welcome to the heart of the arena

Studio-based drama is alive and well and thriving on BBC2.  
Andrew Davies tells Simon Reade about his screen dream

**Y**ou're there to protect the integrity of the writer: a mischievous Andrew Davies reminded me on the eve of recording *A Few Short Journeys of the Heart*. While script-editing *Stages*, BBC 2's new anthology series of six television studio plays, I've double-checked the exchange rate of the rupee, given perfect pronunciations of Polish vodkas, even offered a producer acting tips in his fleeing cameo as a tabloid journalist — and all on behalf of the writer. Davies was seeking reassurance: in his "great complex, semi-magical narrative about sexuality, identity, dreams, technology and the universal search for love — Buñuel meets Altman in the labyrinth of dreams", the writer on the studio floor needs a monitor in the gallery.

In *Stages*, we've already seen the austere intensity of Tony Marchant's *Speaking in Tongues* and Jane Horrocks's deeply moving performance in Jack Emery's *Suffer the Little Children*. To come are: Anna Reynolds's cellar-bound *Paradise*; Claire McIntyre's *Low Level Panic*, set in a bedroom; and Harwant Bains's *Two Oranges and a Mango*, which uses Punjab as its backdrop. Davies's play explores the vivid nightmare world of the (writer's) imagination through the deliberate artificiality of the television studio.

Creator of *A Very Peculiar Practice* and *The House of Cards* series, Davies delights in subverting form. Hence his attraction to the studio as an empty, four-walled arena of limitless potential. In the 1970s, under the producer Louis Marks, he created two studio pieces important to his later work: *The*



Davies: prolific adapter

comment, sophisticated in intent. Today's technical advances are demonstrated daily: in the news, in youth and light entertainment, in arts programmes. Drama now has the opportunity to continue where it almost left off in the 1980s when it was seduced by the trend for stylish, director-led films. Until then, the writer-motivated studio play had thrived. In America in the 1950s, writers like Paddy Chayefsky first created the "marvellous world of the ordinary" through naturalistic dramas. Then in Britain, we had state-of-the-nation and experimental plays under the banners *The Wednesday Play*, *Arm-*

*chair Theatre* and *Play for Today*. *Stages* can't compete with that body of work in those eras; but together with the classic play strand *Performance* (both under executive producer Simon Curtis) it demonstrates a commitment to continuing studio-based drama.

(Chayefsky's *The Mother and Dennis Potter's "wiped" play *Message for Posterity* are revived in the *Performance* strand this autumn).*

The speed at which studio work can be achieved ensures that it is made "while everyone's still interested", half-jokes Davies. The studio, under the mooring glare of the clock, creates its own dynamic, whipped along by the floor manager the moment it begins to feel sluggish. Lighter cameras with a greater depth of vision, flexible options in editing (as well as the vision mixer's multi-camera cut, each camera is recorded in isolation as if it were a single camera), the delicacy of lighting on video and the versatility of sound, have all helped to resurrect the studio as a writer's playground. Actors, too, relish the opportunity of giving a sustained performance, long-and-mid-shots taken simultaneously with close-ups, while entire scenes can run uninterrupted (with many more words than you get in film). In *A Few Short Journeys*, where each performer plays more than one character, this process helped the reverberation of one character into the next.

*A Few Short Journeys* is based on six of Davies's short stories in *Dirty Faxes*. "The stories are filthy and scary and frightening, and yet there's something romantic about them," says Davies. "What they have in common is a search for love

of a kind that most of us have only ever known in childhood." Davies is a prolific adapter — from Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice*) to Angus Wilson (*Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*): "The way I can look at something by somebody else and think 'this is a good idea, I'm going to build up this'." I found difficulty with the screenplays from my novels *Getting Hurt* and *B. Monkey*. But I immediately saw the bits of *Dirty Faxes* I wanted."

Davies's scripts engage the reader directly. In *A Few Short Journeys* he asked questions: "Is this cheating, for a studio play?" "Can we do that, if they're played by the same

actor?" He gave hints to performers: "We are, of course, paying a bit of homage to Truffaut's *Stolen Kisses*. The audience don't need to know that, but Collette should, to get the rhythms right." Usually edifying, his descriptions can act as a catalyst for the unforeseen: "Take Anthony Venditti," enthuses Davies, "who plays Pepe, a character I'd just sketched as a Spanish waiter who stole bottles of vodka from his restaurant to share with his friends on his journey home. He had hardly any lines, but Anthony gave him the presence of Pavarotti."

Davies enjoyed the playful inven-

tion of the actors during the recording. "And I loved the way that John Treays [the lighting director] would say things to me like 'this is how Fellini would light it', and I'd say 'yes please'. There's still that remnant of studio expertise. Paul Munting [the designer] was telling me that you used to serve an apprenticeship, working for a master and then one day finding yourself surrounded by your own gang of disciples. And Paul Tickell [the director] did what I'd asked for and then drew so many additional ideas out of it."

The studio is an environment in which a writer can flex his creative

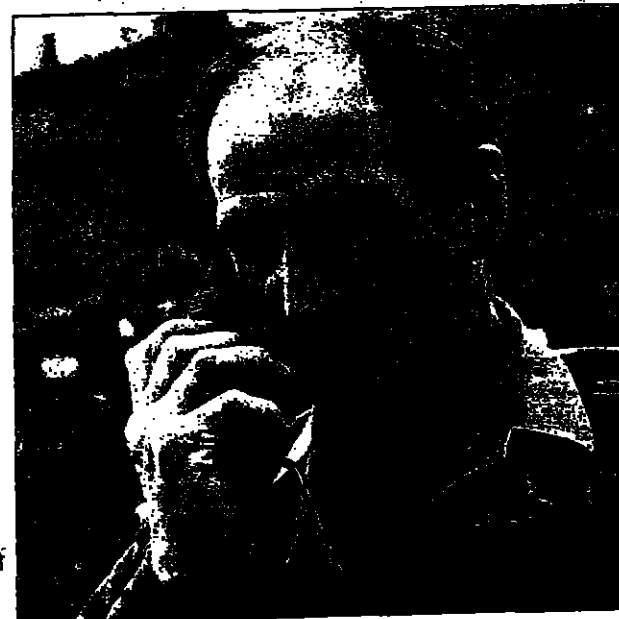
muscles with a single play. Tony Marchant noted while making *Speaking in Tongues* that "in film, what you tell matters; in the theatre or in the studio, it's what you have to say as a writer that counts". With *A Few Short Journeys of the Heart*, what is being said is ultimately left up to the viewer, because it's all told within the chopped logic of a dream (or dreams). Davies is like an imp of the perverse, broadcasting into the realm of the unknown — where not even the good script editor can protect him.

● Simon Reade is a script editor with BBC-TV Drama; *Stages* is broadcast on BBC2 on Wednesdays, 9.25pm



David Troughton in Andrew Davies's *A Few Short Journeys of the Heart*, based on his own book of short stories, *Dirty Faxes*

## The trouble with the Troubles



Servicemen sent to Ulster in 1969 recall the conflict

ANNIVERSARY television, that enormous industry, is usually concerned with matters long over, if not forgotten. But this month is the 25th anniversary of the modern hostilities in Northern Ireland so television has an opportunity to mark the beginning of something without the slightest indication as to when, or if, there will be an ending.

Channel 4 got its Ulster show on the road last month. Now comes BBC2 with a season of films which began on Saturday with a repeat showing of *At The Edge of the Union* and continued yesterday with *The Soldier's Tale*, which featured servicemen sent to Ulster in 1969.

It would be reasonable to conclude from these two films that in one respect we have stood still these 25 years.

Transmission of *At The Edge of the Union* was postponed by the BBC in August 1985 when the corporation collapsed under pressure from Leon Brittan, then Home Secretary. This censorship doubled, at least, the audience which tuned in when the film was shown, with minor edits, two months later.

Its showing on Saturday was accompanied by no fuss at all, yet this version illustrates an even worse case of censorship than nine years ago. For now — under the Government's broadcasting

restrictions — we have a starting role for the dead.

Actor's Voice, already familiar from news bulletins.

The film features two extremists — Martin McGuinness, said to be the IRA chief of staff, and Gregory Campbell, a prominent "loyalist" hard-liner, now leader of the Democratic Unionists on Derry City Council.

We are allowed to hear what Campbell has to say in his own voice, even though he advocates "whatever measures are necessary" to get rid of the IRA. In 1985, we were allowed to hear McGuinness in his own voice. Now, we can

### 25 Bloody Years BBC 2

hear him describe his political motivation in his own voice, but when he talks about getting the British out of Ulster the words are spoken by an actor.

There is even a newcomer to this bizarre cast list, in the shape of Actress's Voice. We hear McGuinness's wife talk about her support for her husband, but the very next sentence, in which she talks about the use of violence, is spoken for her by an actress.

This madness, designed to deprive the terrorists of what Margaret Thatcher called "the oxygen of publicity", only serves to draw attention to the

words. There is not much of alarm in the actual content of the film, nor was there in 1985. It is merely a litany of half-baked fanciful ideas, as when our friend Actor's Voice says on behalf of McGuinness that Ulster would "live in peace" if only the British went home.

As *The Soldier's Tale* demonstrates, neither the presence nor the absence of the British appears to make much of an inroad into the territory of bigots and murderers. The film shows that the first year of the British presence was crucial — and we blew it.

A black ex-soldier told how, at the beginning, he was fed tea and cakes by the women of west Belfast and his colour

made him an object of friendly curiosity on the part of their children. They followed him around to the point where he became known as the Pied Piper of the Shankill. A year later, on his second tour of duty, he was accused as "a black bastard".

Yet most of the soldiers interviewed would do it all again, including a man who lost both legs in an explosion and another whose face had to be rebuilt after a car bombing. Such men are heroes in touch with the awful reality, even if their excesses, such as smashing up people's homes, contributed to the mayhem.

PETER BARNARD

## PROMS 94: Wigglesworth swept along by youthful energy; the Hallé's fitting tribute to Barbirolli

ANYBODY could have predicted that Mark Wigglesworth's Prom with the National Youth Orchestra would be tremendously impressive. Any conductor's Prom with the National Youth Orchestra always is impressive, because these players are too young, energetic and keen to be daunted by even the most challenging music. But Ravel's ballet *Daphnis and Chloé* is one of the most difficult pieces in the repertoire. Getting the notes right is one thing; putting them together and realising the full opulence of Ravel's textures is quite another. No piece demands a more acutely developed listening from its players. Together with the adults of the BBC Symphony Chorus, they met the challenge magnificently.

Wigglesworth, never a conductor to adopt half-measures, made it even more testing for them by opting for a reading in which a sense of onward movement was often sacrificed for the sake of dwelling upon the sound of the moment. It was the play of an unabashed sensualist, and in this unabashedly sensual piece it worked. Under him the score glowed as it rarely does. The dancers in

### Young, gifted and back for more

NYO/Wigglesworth  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Wigglesworth's mind's eye were decidedly languid.

Despite this demanding holding back of momentum, the NYO never lost its concentration for even a moment, and shape was carefully maintained in the phrasing. The strings, several of whom are no more than 13 or 14, played with a sheen of alarming maturity, even voluptuousness. Woodwinds and brass were exact and confident, the first horn's terrifying ascent into the stratosphere managed with casual professionalism and the delicately placed series of woodwind solos near the beginning a fair indication

of the standard these players showed throughout. Let us not forget, either, the busy percussion section, from which anything other than perfection stands out like a sore thumb in this score. They, too, stayed unfazed, nerveless and accurate despite the pressure.

After the interval, there was another full-length Diaghilev ballet, Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, played in the fuller, original scoring of 1911 rather than in the version of 1947. Again Wigglesworth gave the music plenty of space in which to breathe. If the reading occasionally lacked the complete technical assurance of *Daphnis*, it was still full of some very fine things, not least from the excellent pianist, Philip Moore.

Wigglesworth did make one miscalculation. He likes his dynamics extreme, as the dramatically hushed opening of the Ravel proved. But at the end of *Petrushka* the crucial string pizzicatos were all but lost to most of us.

The NYO asked reviewers to mention Lexus and Williams Holdings PLC, their major sponsors. I am happy to oblige.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## Another vintage taster

Hallé/Nagano,  
BBC Singers/Joly  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

HALFWAY through the hundredth season of Proms and already it seems that far from being a ritual celebration of past traditions and achievements, chided for its lack of new commissions, it is a season of outstanding vintage. That is partly because the revived traditions were good ones, the revived period pieces have been deserving of revival, programmes have been cleverly structured, and every orchestra seems to have been charged with coming up with something special.

On Friday, for instance, the Hallé Orchestra, sounding refreshed and hungry for its music under Kent Nagano's direction, gave a programme in the form of a homage to the man who until now has been its most celebrated principal conductor, Sir John Barbirolli: Elgar, Mahler, Vaughan Williams and, an unexpectedly stern challenge, Berg's *Three Orchestral Pieces*.

That last choice seemed odd until we read in Michael Kennedy's essay that Barbirolli in fact conducted the

British premiere of the Chamber Concerto. In any case, the Hallé gave a fine performance of these complex pieces, whose delicate touches add up to a richness not always easy to digest. But we are fast learning that Nagano's trump card is his ability to bring lucidity to whatever he conducts. That was exactly what these pieces needed and got, and the reward was the rapt attention of a well-behaved audience already warmed by a carefully slow, not over-sentimental reading of Elgar's Introduction and Allegro for Strings.

Afterwards, the baritone Hakan Hagegard in Mahler's "Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen" summoned all the rapt sense of loss that Baker in her heyday brought to these songs with Barbirolli.

A lucid quality is also vital to a successful performance of

Vaughan Williams's sometimes elusive *Sinfonia Antartica*. Nagano understood its stark, austere majesty well, and with his spacious tempos resisted the temptation to inject too much filmic melodrama into its progress (the music's origins lie in Vaughan Williams's score for the film *Scott of the Antarctic*). The symphony is a static study in textures, white, icy, still, or blustery, a Sibelius-like view of the human spirit pitted against the merciless vastness of the elements. Like the Fourth Symphony before it, it shows that Vaughan Williams was far from being the reactionary he sometimes appeared to be.

This reading contained many eloquent details, none more affecting perhaps than Marios Agiros's beautiful oboe solos in the Intermezzo fourth movement, while in the first and last movements the women's voices of the Hallé Chorus and Susan Gritton's ethereal soprano way up in the gallery (from where the wind machine also moaned) encap-



Conductor Sir John Barbirolli: subject of a Hallé homage

sulated the whole essence of the symphony.

Even this fine start to the evening could have prepared nobody for what followed: a late-night performance of Gilles Swayne's enormous *Cry* for the 28 amplified voices of the BBC Singers, first performed in 1979 and first heard at the Proms in 1983. This seven-part evocation of the creation myth, a series of essentially static blocks of sound, highly active within and soaked with sounds taken from various African musics,

resounded thrillingly from all extremities of the dramatically darkened hall — a perfect ambience for the piece. Simon Joly presided coolly over the ritual, and the BBC Singers negotiated its demands — the pitching of isolated notes must be particularly terrifying — with marvellous assurance.

If Swayne achieves nothing half as powerful as this for the rest of his life, he will still deserve his place in the history books.

STEPHEN PETTITT







Bruce Boucher enjoys a reappraisal of a sophisticated and influential artist who challenged the greatest painters of his time

# Hero figure or neurotic desperado?

Giovanni Battista Rosso, better known as Rosso Fiorentino, has always had a bad press. Born in 1494, he grew to maturity just as the heroic phase of High Renaissance art switched from his native Florence to Rome, and as an apprentice painter, he suffered a haphazard training with minor masters. His first public commissions brought a mixed response, forcing him to work in provincial towns and for a lesser rank of patron. Subsequent recognition brought invitations to Rome where Rosso quarrelled with benefactors and nearly starved.

His prickly nature was matched by a taste for awkward subjects and sometimes strident colours. Art historians have been divided over Rosso's place in art, some seeing him as a precursor of 20th-century expressionism while others regard his work simply as a personal response to the achievements of Michelangelo and Raphael.

Rosso is undoubtedly important, not only because he matured into one of the most elegant and influential of Italian artists, but also because his career, like that of his contemporaries Pontormo and Parmigianino, raises fundamental questions about artistic development and the

evolution of the High Renaissance. David Franklin's thoughtful and low-key study of Rosso's Italian period focuses upon the artist's chequered career and tries to reconcile the conflicting images that have almost obscured his achievement.

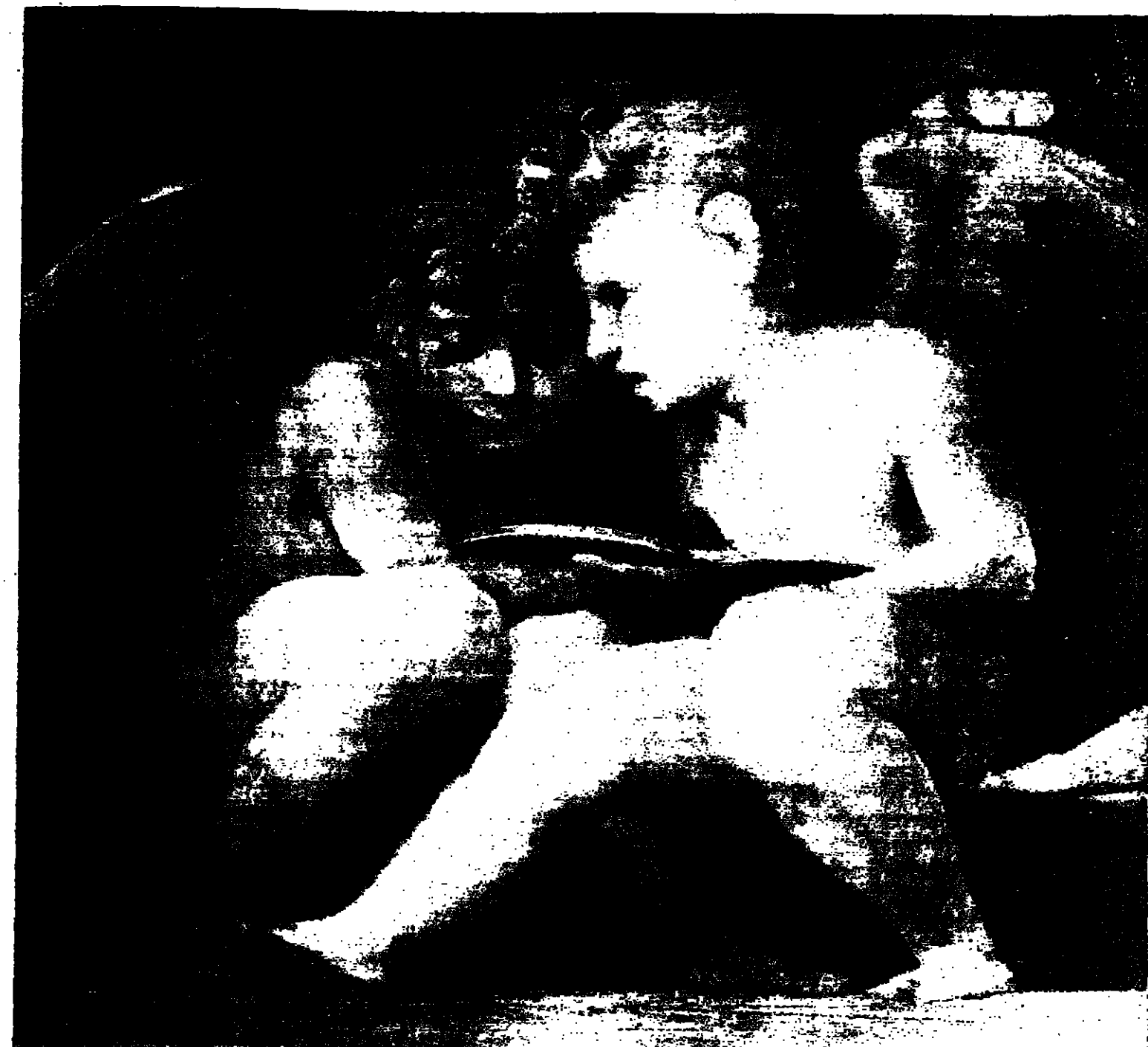
Franklin picks his way nimbly through the scholarly minefield known as mannerism. Originally employed as a

al, and his sense of the tradition within which Rosso operated makes for the most convincing exposition yet of a crucial figure in Italian art.

Above all, Franklin demonstrates that a painting like the *Deposition in Volterra*, with its apple-green Christ and wildly gesticulating mourners, was not so far removed from the suave assurance of the *Dead Christ with Angels* in Boston. In both, Rosso exploited different aspects of Florentine art, which enjoyed a penchant for dissonant colour allied to an insistence on sculptural forms.

With the *Deposition*, the artist tailored his design to suit an unsophisticated religious confraternity, while the *Dead Christ* transmits religious doctrine into an almost purely aesthetic statement. Less than a decade separated these two works, but Rosso developed rapidly and drew upon more sophisticated patrons as he moved in Roman circles.

**ROSSO IN ITALY:**  
The Italian Career of  
Rosso Fiorentino  
By David Franklin  
Yale University Press, £45



A detail from Rosso's altarpiece of the Virgin and Child with the saints John the Baptist, Stephen and Jerome (Uffizi Gallery, Florence)

## A torch kept burning

Samantha Weinberg

**ALAN PATON:**  
A Biography  
By Peter F. Alexander  
Oxford University Press, £25

There is a lovely road that runs from Ikopo into the hills. These hills are grass-covered and rolling, and they are lovely beyond any singing of it. The opening lines of Alan Paton's *Cry the Beloved Country* are as familiar to a South African as those of *Pride and Prejudice* are to an English literature student — and they are usually enough to provoke tears of anticipation in anyone who has read the book before. For *Cry the Beloved Country* must surely be the greatest South African novel: it has a rhythm, a beauty and a sadness that defy even the most jaded heart to remain unmoved.

Yet its author, Alan Paton, did not see himself first and foremost as a writer. As his biographer, Peter F. Alexander explains, his was "a life of works first, words second".

In this biography, Alexander, a South African, now Professor of English at the University of New South Wales, describes with meticulous care the different stages of Paton's life: a life which shadowed the most turbulent and dramatic period of South African history.

Paton, born in 1903 into a deeply Christian family, was at first, like most whites of the time, blind to the injustices of the South African system. But as he progressed — from precocious schoolboy, through

teacher, prison reformer, writer, poet and politician — he became increasingly aware of the horrors of apartheid and pledged his life to trying to reverse them.

Paton always believed strongly that he could make a difference. In 1941, while still the crusading principal of Diepkloof reformatory for young black offenders, he wrote to his mentor, the liberal-minded politician J.H. Hofmeyr: "I believe that I have a contribution to make to South Africa greater than that of any English-speaking South African I know or read of."

When Hofmeyr failed to come up with Paton's long-desired promotion into public life, he sat down in a hotel room in Norway and started to write *Cry the Beloved Country*. He little realised then the impact that this, the first of his three novels, would have. The story of a simple black priest, who goes to Johannesburg in search of his sister and son, to find that they have been contaminated by the sins of the big city, struck a chord in everyone who read it. By the time of Paton's death, in 1982, it had sold 15 million copies in 20 languages. His words proved to be a more powerful weapon by far — especially in raising the profile of South Africa's plight to the world community — than anything Paton could have achieved from within the system.

As with many writers who produce a first-time masterpiece, however, Paton found *Cry the Beloved Country* hard to follow. He was constantly frustrated by his inability to make the words flow in the same easy and seamless fashion. His two later novels are very good and moving, but they lack the spine-tingling simplicity of his first, while his biographies — of Hofmeyr and the Bishop of Johannesburg, Geoffrey Clayton — and his collections of poems and short stories, would never have the astounding impact of that first, miraculous novel.

What the effect of Paton's other activities were, especially his role in the creation of the Liberal Party, is harder to assess. It was undoubtedly important that the Liberals kept the torch of multiracialism burning during the darkest years of the National Party's rule by accustoming, in Paton's words, "to the language of justice and common sense thousands of ears that are accustomed to fear and prejudice". However, Alexander tends to overestimate the power and influence of the Liberal Party — and certainly Paton's part — by underplaying the roles of the other opposition parties, from the Progressive Party to the African National Congress.

His task, as a biographer, was not an easy one. Paton

wrote a very detailed account of his life in two volumes: *Towards the Mountain* and *Journey Continued*, the latter being published in 1988. Most of the relevant information was thus already out, and indeed, this latest work adds little to the facts of Paton's life. What it does, however, and exceedingly well, is allow the reader to see Paton as others saw him, not merely as he saw himself; to provide us with a portrait, rather than a mirror image, of a small man, with a frown and a stoop, which "gave him an appearance of pugnacity, as if he were leading with his chin and daring life to hit him again..."

Alexander, who came to know Paton well towards the end of his life, is an admiring biographer, but he still manages on occasion to place before us the seamier or more



Alan Paton: crusader

controversial sides of Paton's life. Before, admittedly, sweeping them neatly under the carpet. Between his marriages, he was accused of trying to procure the sexual services of a black woman — a serious and humiliating crime under the Immorality Act — and probably perjured himself in court before being acquitted.

Towards the end of his life, as the political spectrum shifted leftwards with the growth of black radicalism, Paton came increasingly under fire for sticking to his Liberal ideals: for opposing trade sanctions and for promoting federalism as a stepping stone to the goal of a unitary state.

This is not a ground-breaking book, but it is well researched and well written, moving easily between Paton's writing — his sermons, letters and poetry. For admirers of Paton, it is an affirmation of his brilliance; while for the uninformed, it is a loving portrait of a remarkable man, an extraordinary time and a strange and tormented land.

"For it is the dawn that has come, as it has come for a thousand centuries, never failing. But when that dawn will come, of our emancipation, from the fear of bondage and the bondage of fear, why, that is a secret."

## Breaking the last taboo

Fiona Pitt-Kethely

**DEAREST PET**  
On Bestiality  
By Midas Dekkers  
Verso, £18.95

I once had the pleasure of interviewing a sex-shop owner in Copenhagen. When I asked him what videos of bestiality he could supply, he answered: "Well, we've got horses and dogs, that's normal," before mentioning a few other of the creature comforts that were available. On first reading Midas Dekkers' book readers could be forgiven for thinking that activities with horses and dogs and so on were normal, or at least very common. According to his figures, 50 per cent of men in rural areas will have had at least one experience with an animal.

Dekkers trained as a biologist before becoming a broadcaster. He is the Dutch equivalent to our Desmond Morris. And he is at his best, when he writes in a joking vein. There is much about the sheer awkwardness of bestiality that raises laughter, albeit nervous laughter.

But this book is also about man's interaction with the

animal kingdom. One of the most interesting points that emerges from the book is the fact that most of the painted images of bestiality are depictions of women — Europa and the bull, Leda and the swan — although it is mostly men who do the deeds in real life. Rich male patrons, I suppose, were less inclined to pay for pictures of farm labourers in *flagrant delicto* with goats than for the enticing curves and beautiful textures of a woman entwined

with a swan. Swans, I learnt with interest, are the proud possessors of a penis — "as large and beautiful as the bird itself, amply equipped to satisfy every desire".

Some of the oldest representations of bestiality appear in rock paintings of the Bronze Age in Sweden. In later ages the Chinese and Mochica Indians decorated their pottery with illustrations of it, including as many varieties as the video shops of Copenhagen.

Actual bestiality, rather than the kind found in beautiful paintings, has been the subject of very heavy penalties. It was accepted in the classical world, but once Christianity got the upper hand it became a capital

offence. Animals were often executed with their paramours. Even the most innocent animals rarely escaped, apart from one lucky she-ass. The dignitaries of Vanuatu "were prepared to testify that both in word and deed and in her whole manner of life she is very law-abiding".

Bestiality was decriminalised in most of the countries in Europe at the time of the French Revolution. Only Germany and England retain laws against it. Only in these countries and America are the perpetrators likely to get a severe penalty if the case is brought to court.

Dekkers is Dutch. In his country bestiality is no longer illegal, yet there are still taboos on mentioning the experience, there and elsewhere. "Even for fathers who abuse their children, there is understanding in some quarters, but I am still waiting for the first man to tell Oprah Winfrey in vivid detail about the wonderful night he had with his goat."

## Chinese tease

CRIME

CRIME novels set in a society too unfamiliar to the Western reader face a difficulty which few of them overcome. The writer has to impart basic information about the place and culture being described; but too often this turns into superficial travelogue punctuated, almost as afterthought, with plot, or into dense and over-detailed anthropological examination demonstrating the novelist's erudition but rarely his or her capacity for that crucial ingredient, readability. Death of a Blue Lantern by Christopher West (HarperCollins, £14.99) gets the balance just right. Inspector Wang Anshuang of Peking's Public Security Bureau, suffering from post-Tiananmen doubts, investigates a killing at the People's Opera and is drawn into political and criminal intrigue, linked to the disappearance of valuable artefacts from their geological sites. The ambivalent morality of modern China is intelligently exposed, but not at the expense of a first-class crime story.

NEW York police's special investigator Tina Paris, Catholic-Italian-Puerto Rican, is Ed McBain by way of Cagney and Lacey rolled into one in Perfect Cover by Linda Chase and Joyce St George (Bantam Press, £14.99). She dresses up to infiltrate the Mafia, dresses down to catch a nasty cop in a housing estate gambling joint, and hunts the psychotic rapist/killer who boasts of his activities in faxes to the cops' HQ. One of the authors was herself on NY's anti-corruption squad, and it shows itself in confident authenticity.

Breathless pace, an admirably feisty and sexy heroine and a chilling climax. Calendar Girl by Stella Duffy (Serpent's Tail, £7.99) is labelled a "lesbian thriller".

There's a lot of lesbian lore and sex in it, but it is also a fast, witty and clever crime story, with cracking dialogue and exuberant characters. A love-struck man hires south London gumshoe Saz to find a woman he knew only as "September". The mystery unravels via a new love affair for spunky stand-up comedienne Maggie, trips to New York and a good dollop of drugs and vice. Predictable in parts, but more than compensated for by its verve.

IN The Snake Eater by William G. Tappla (HarperCollins, £14.99) Brady Coyne, Boston's urbane lawyer to the very rich, slums it by taking on the defence of a reclusive Vietnam veteran charged with growing cannabis. Tappla's cool, understated style combines with an impressive efficiency of solid plotting and characterisation. He is especially strong in his portrayal of the sad remnants of the Vietnam War, still unable to come to terms with modern society. He accumulates tension imperceptibly; the resolution is all the more shocking.

Christine Green's Deadly Practice (Macmillan, £14.99) has Kate Kinsella, the endearingly dotty and self-deprecating nursing sleuth, and her occasional helper, doleful undertaker Hubert Humberstone, looking into the killing of a nurse at the local medical centre. Kinsella wangles the dead woman's job, is hired to disprove the case against the main suspect, a local tearaway, and uncovers sinister activity among the medics. A constantly enjoyable, zippy read, with some sharp anti-doctor barbs.

MARCEL BERLINS

## Win a Club Med ski holiday

OVER THE next three weeks, The Times offers readers a chance to win one of three Club Med holidays to France, Greece and the US. And £100 worth of traveller's cheques can be won every day by entering and solving our crossword challenges.

This week's crossword challenge is all about France — we are offering readers the chance to win a holiday for two to the Club Med village at La Plagne, in the Tarentaise mountains of Savoie in the French Alps. The prize worth £2,000 includes flights and transfers to and from the village, full board, ski tuition and ski passes, evening entertainment, as well as insurance.

**HOW TO ENTER**  
To enter, solve the crossword clues in The Times every day this week. The first six clues were printed in Weekend on Saturday, August 6, and write them on the crossword grid which was also printed on Saturday.

When you have solved all the clues and completed the grid, send it with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: The Times Crossword Chal-

enge (1), 30 Boulevard Street, London EC8B 4NG, to arrive no later than Friday, August 19.

Today, readers also have the chance to win £100 of traveller's cheques in the denomination of their choice, courtesy of The Travel Bureau. To enter, simply solve the crossword clues printed today and phone your answers to our competition hotline number.

**HOTLINE NUMBER:**  
0899 444 574  
The telephone lines will be open until midnight tonight. You will be asked to leave your answers, with your name, address and daytime telephone number.

The winner will be selected from all correct entries received after the closing date and notified by phone. Calls are charged at 39p a minute plus VAT and 49p a minute at all other times. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Tonorrow, there will be another six clues and another £100 worth of traveller's cheques to be won.

Now try to solve The Times Crossword, page 18, and/or Times Two Crossword, page 36.

### ACROSS

- 11 Henry Vs victory against the French King's retinue? (9)  
12 Rampaging zeal, I trust, won this for Napoleon (10)

### DOWN

- 4 French victory, if mounting, is the end (6)  
5 Liteness in battle (8)  
6 Profit from identifying at last département no. 1 (4)  
7 Find out Tarn is ace (9)

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## EDUCATION

## Second city stands alone

John Bald on the education authority introducing its own standards checks for children

Professor Tim Brighouse, Birmingham's chief education officer, banged the penultimate nail into the coffin of John Patten in June by winning damages against the former Education Secretary for describing him as "a nutter". Mr Patten's misplaced personal attack on a Conservative conference fringe meeting last October drew the sting of a concerted assault on the Labour council's record in education in England's second city.

Ironically, many earlier Conservative criticisms of Professor Brighouse's authority were confirmed by an independent commission set up by the council. Its report, published in November, criticised Birmingham as a disjointed, authoritarian bureaucracy, hostile to criticism and feared by many head teachers. It had diverted £300 million from education over five years for projects such as its concert hall. Twenty-three schools had tried to opt out of its control.

Professor Brighouse, an observer at the commission's proceedings, took heed. School budgets were immediately improved — the city plans to spend £1 million above Government guidelines next year — and head teachers began to receive friendly visits and public support from the head of their service. A series of initiatives were set in motion to deal with basic problems. Literacy identified in 1993 as a priority by the commission and by an unpublished survey of final-year junior school pupils — was high on the list. It figures prominently in a proposed "primary guarantee" and in a "year of reading", which will, says Professor Brighouse, "make Birmingham a national centre of excellence in reading and literacy".

We do not know how long it would have taken Professor Brighouse to build Rome, but he seems to have set out to tackle Birmingham before breakfast. His proposed primary guarantee will require schools to audit reading at the ages of seven, 11 and 12. It accepts that schools in similar circumstances produce different results, and recommends, with some qualification, the use of tests that measure reading ages against chronological ages as an indicator of overall trends. It says the authority should draw on the Government's tests in its own work and introduce "baseline assessments" for five-year-olds. It is considering a further voluntary assessment and hopes to set up an independent commission on reading.

Kevin Cassidy, head teacher at St Clare's in Handsworth, had been at loggerheads with the previous regime even though his school had been recognised as a centre of excellence in a national scheme in 1992. Earlier this year he returned from a meeting to find Professor Brighouse waiting in his office. They parted on the best of terms and the authority's reputation within the school has been transformed.

But will Professor Brighouse persuade teachers to accept a programme which has much more in common with the Government's view of what should happen in inner-city schools than either side is likely to admit? Assessment of five-year-olds is perhaps the easiest hurdle because it provides stark evidence of the problems facing teachers. The pilot run of the Birmingham assessments revealed that 7 per cent of pupils appeared unable to take part in a simple conversation, 10 per cent had no interest in books and print and almost a quarter were unable to



A primary school class in Birmingham, where a flurry of initiatives aims to improve literacy

count to five using objects. The proportion of children making good progress in English and mathematics was equally poor.

Teachers' enthusiasm for testing or assessment often wanes, however, when it concerns their own work rather than the children's starting point. The results of the city's survey of 5,000 junior school children using the Edinburgh Reading Test remain unpublished. According to Professor Brighouse, they confirm the findings of national inspection reports that infant schools perform better than junior schools. He is confident that dramatic improvements in reading standards in Birmingham will show through within two years.

Nevertheless, the public would be better able to judge the progress of the literacy initiative if it could see the starting point detailed in the survey results.

Much of the problem seems to stem from Birmingham's political requirement to develop an independent identity while trying to tackle basic problems that are also at the heart of Government reforms. Birmingham, for example, proposes to categorise pupils as "advanced" and "independent" in both English and mathematics. This is a completely new framework, and seems to distance the authority from the national curriculum, although if both are setting out to

achieve the same goal there is no educational reason for it.

Some also question the difference between Birmingham's "guarantee" and the Government's own "charter", particularly since the proposed guarantee allows each school to set its own targets for improving literacy without specific commitments by the authority as a whole. A guarantee to parents that every co-operative pupil entering secondary school, who did not have significant learning difficulties, should achieve the literacy standards expected of a typical nine-year-old would be both feasible and impressive. It is time someone had the courage to offer such a guarantee, backed by compensation.

## The book every pupil must read

Why are teachers so reluctant to introduce pupils to the most important book ever written in English? I refer to the King James Bible, the Authorised Version of 1611, long rejected by religious education teachers as being "too difficult and irrelevant". They apparently prefer the banal abridged miseries of, say, the Good News Bible, believing, quite wrongly, that the splendid old language inhibits understanding.

That is nonsense. For James's translators, the whole point was accessibility for ordinary people. It was and is accessible. Much of the simple syntax could have been created last week. How much more straightforward can you be than "I am the door" "Jesus wept" or "Their strength is to sit still"?

Nonetheless, the Authorised Version does not feature in many religious education lessons. Some schools might have a few dusty old copies lying neglected on a top shelf but in most cases they have been long since thrown away.

English teachers should save the Authorised Version — but, of course, they will not. Liberal agnosticism causes most of them to reject the Bible as merely a religious text. Its power as a magnificent piece of literature seems to pass them by.

Another nonsense. These same teachers happily teach Greek, Roman and Norse legends because the stories are entertaining and have long been culturally influential. It is perfectly possible to treat the Bible in the same way. After all, this country has been culturally Christian for 17 centuries and children have every right to familiarity with the writings, in their finest version, that have underpinned the law and our

traditional attitudes for so long. That is more important than anyone's doctrinal reservations. In places the Authorised Version has archaisms, such as "publican" and "brethren", but it isn't difficult to explain these things to children, which helps when they come to read other 17th-century texts; Shakespeare, for example. It also provides a useful working knowledge of all those lovely old verb and pronoun forms such as doth, hath, propheseth, thee, thou and thine.

The King James Bible contains some of the most evocative poetry ever penned in English. Who can fail to be moved by "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help" or "And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity"? The patterns of assonance and alliteration give such lines a unique resonance and rhythm. Small wonder that writers in every generation as diverse as Bunyan and Milton, Hopkins and Lawrence, Eliot and Heaney reflect the influence of this remarkable book — or collection of books — in their work. Surely children should be made aware of this so that they begin to become aware of literary continuity, connotations and allusions in their reading? We cannot blame children and young people for being ignorant if no one accepts the responsibility for teaching them what they deserve to know.

If we do not restore the King James Bible to its rightful prime place in the school curriculum as a matter of urgency it will, in a generation or so, have disappeared from the experience of ordinary people. It will be just an obscure "elitist" document studied by a handful of academics. It is too precious for that.

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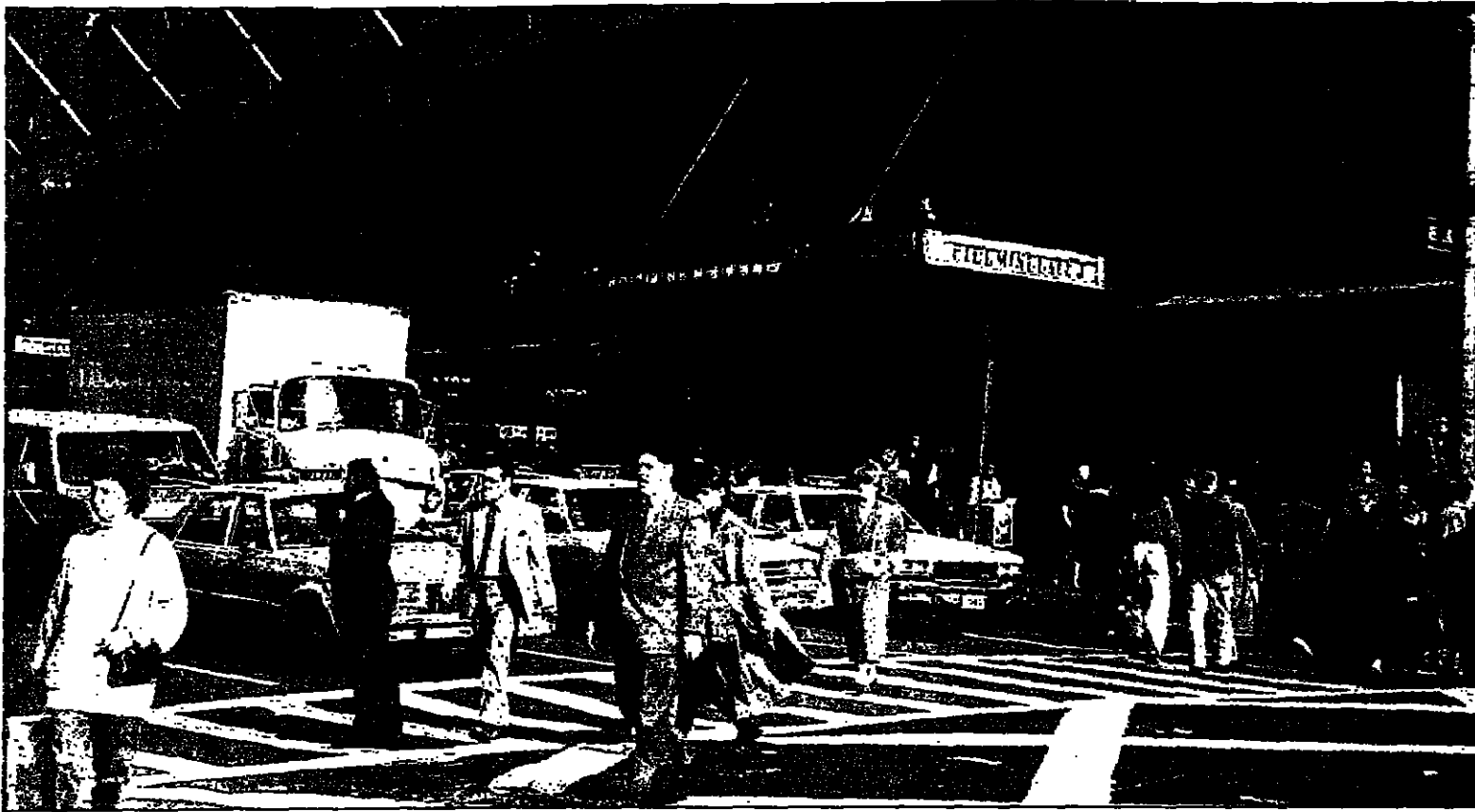












Bloomingdale's, where big may not be beautiful as American stores such as "Macy's and Bloomingdale's are squeezed at both ends"

## Shakeout as US retail giants encounter troubles in store

New strategies are needed in a changing consumer-driven market beset by legacies of the eighties, says Sean Mac Carthaigh

America's retail sector has long been a metaphor for the entire US economy: the gently growing sixties, inflation-wracked seventies, the eighties filled with unbridled greed and debt overload, and now, in the nineties, despite an economic upswing, consolidation, niche-marketing and cost-cutting.

The latest twist came last month, when Macy's, the biggest department store in the world and which has languished under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for 30 months, was swallowed by Federated Department Stores, the company that runs Bloomingdale's. Federated itself only emerged from Chapter 11 in 1992.

It means that a total of 340 stores throughout America, with combined sales of close to \$14 billion a year, will report to Federated headquarters in Cincinnati for marketing and merchandising strategy. The additional clout and marketing of own brands may benefit the consumer, forcing down prices paid by Federated to suppliers.

This does not necessarily add up to a rejuvenated retail sector. Macy's and Bloomingdale's have similar stores in many medium-sized cities and this will probably spell closure and job losses. Suppliers, unable to meet new, lower-cost demands and longer credit periods, will be unable to find other major customers, and will cease production.

"We're still witnessing a shakeout in the retail industry," says Dave Speights of *American Marketplace* magazine. "There was massive overbuilding of retail space in the eighties because it was tax-advantaged investment. The business found itself overbuilt and over-extended just in time for a recession." Retail space in North America grew by 80 per cent in the 1980s, the population by 10 per cent.

"Stores like Macy's and Bloomingdale's are being squeezed at both ends," Mr Speights says. "On one hand there's been a move towards low-priced and discount stores, and towards outlet stores, on the other places like Nordstrom, where service is the key and there's no sales pitch. They've got a little man playing a grand piano for you when you go through the door."

Nordstrom, based in Seattle and with 76 shops around the US, specialises in pampering the customer with a well-trained, knowledgeable staff. Prices are perceived by many customers as slightly higher than average, and the shops rarely hold sales or mark down goods. Started in

1901 as a shoe-shop, and still family owned, the "service first" strategy has succeeded in identifying a niche market worth \$3.6 billion last year.

At the other end of the market, Wal-Mart's 2,046 shops are doing fine. The latest results show sales at the super-discount retailer swinging up with the US economy — \$30.1 billion from February to June, a 25 per cent increase on the same period last year.

Wal-Mart confirms the polarisation in its price-to-earnings valuations; the highest go to Nordstrom, Wal-Mart and Dollar General, a discount chain. Now Wal-Mart is challenging Kroger, America's largest grocery retailer with 1,277 supermarkets.

Last year, on sales of \$22 billion, Kroger made a profit of just \$171 million, half the grocery average earnings on sales. The chain is saddled by the huge debts it ran up in the eighties, fending off a leveraged buyout attempt by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. It is also hampered by comparatively low staff productivity.

Wal-Mart appears to be making a direct attempt to lure the customers, creating massive shopping centres close to many of Kroger's branches. One recent report said at the start of this year that only 4 per cent of Wal-Mart's sales base competed directly

with Kroger's: by the end of 1995 close to 25 per cent will. A Wal-Mart typically draws shoppers from a radius of 15 miles, a Kroger's generally from under three miles.

Another twist to the new retail market-place comes from Supervalu, perhaps the biggest food wholesaler in the world, supplying around 4,500 independent supermarkets. Michael Wright, its chief executive, says he is being squeezed by large stores such as Kroger's and Wal-Mart that do their own warehousing. The only way to fight back, he believes, is to get into retail himself.

Last year, Supervalu took control of Weterau of St Louis, a company that generates \$1.1 billion a year from retailing food. The only problem is, the firm's new retail stores are now competing directly with supermarkets supplied by Supervalu. Meanwhile, Sears has announced that it is back in the black, after first quarter red ink due to losses by its Allstate insurance firm after the Los Angeles earthquake. The company has pulled out all the stops to reposition itself in the sector; executives even dumped the famous Sears catalogue, for decades the symbol of American mail-order retail. "Come see the softer

side of Sears" say the new ads. Woolworth's, for years a dependable, low-priced outlet, is closing 400 of its 800 traditional variety stores, as well as another 330 outlets across the US; 9 per cent of its workforce is being laid off. With an estimated three-quarters of the company's operating profits coming from specialty stores such as Foot Locker, executives are trying to expand in these markets, paring down and consolidating the "five-and-dime" stores that were once Woolworth's core area.

Marvin Traub, America's retail-sector genius who transformed Bloomingdale's into the kind of place the Queen wanted to visit when in the US, says the consumer is driving the changes in the business, demanding lasting value, more convenience and, with few exceptions, low prices.

Although less than half of 1 per cent of America's retail business is generated by television shopping, Mr Traub believes the medium will cause shops increasing problems as it goes interactive: "You'll have channels like Wal-Mart, or K mart, others that would be more like Macy's, others like a Saks Fifth Avenue. Or there might be channels that would focus heavily on, say, athletic equipment."

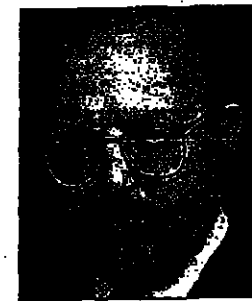
In the shopping malls, too, the consumer is forcing the pace. In 1982, according to the latest batch of statistics, the average shopper spent an hour and a half in the mall and went to 3.6 shops. Now, they leave after 72 minutes and visit 2.6 stores.

So the malls are fighting back. Air-conditioning and heating systems have been revamped, no-smoking signs are up, and new attention is being lavished on the consumer. Most malls have upgraded what managers consider the first service a centre provides for the consumer, the information desk. Now, many provide children's strollers, electric wheelchairs and baby-changing facilities with free nappies on hand. And a cloakroom — tests show that a person relieved of a heavy winter coat will stay 45 minutes longer.

Similar surveys indicate other shifts in consumer behaviour. Retailers such as Wal-Mart that offered "every day low prices" — now referred to by middle managers everywhere as EDLP — are reaping customer loyalty too.

New York's biggest electronics and camera chain, The Wiz, now claims to have its own "price police" to check on competitors' deals, and immediately lower the chain's prices on the item.

## Full employment is the only real route to low taxes



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

The rest is up to the private sector. Only business folk can determine the sustainable rate of growth. As studies from both the CBI and the Bank of England have shown, they are so chary of investing, demand such high returns and have such little faith in economic stability, that growth rates will remain low. If private sector activity then leaves permanent mass unemployment, as its low growth expectations imply, government must operate its own spending, tax and monetary policies to match. The Bank

The realist's counsel of despair is actually quite unrealistic

of England sees little reason to expect a long-term growth rate much above the 1.75 per cent suggested by some formal studies. Judging from international experience, this might crudely comprise about 1.25 per cent from technical and market improvements, about 0.5 per cent from Britain's subdued rate of investment in new capital but nothing from increased labour resources. Smoothing out booms and slumps, and counting the number of people employed and how long each labourer, total hours worked have been on a downward trend for the past 30 years. Making policy on such gloomy assumptions tends to be self-fulfilling, but sounds realistic.

If measured unemployment is to stay above 1.5 million, and semi-employment and associated poverty remain permanent, then it is hard to get taxes down. Since, say, the National Health Service will continue to absorb at least its existing proportion of national income, other programmes must be cut if even income taxes are to come down. If welfare demands are to remain high, the social security

budget must itself be kept under control by cutting the amount of national income spent on universal benefits such as pensions and child benefit; by paring benefit rates, by converting long-term unemployment benefit and much invalidity benefit into lower income support.

This strategy is not, however, as realistic as it sounds. The Government has been pursuing it surreptitiously for a dozen years, but has still ended with higher public spending and, on Treasury projections, a higher tax burden. In the mid-1960s, general government spending ran at less than 38 per cent of gross domestic product. Even at the height of the late-1980s boom, with the North Sea bounty, it ran at 39 per cent. Last year, it was 45 per cent and after all the planned spending cuts and economic recovery, the Treasury still projects 41 per cent public spending in 1998-99.

Two prime ministers, five Chancellors and even more Chief Secretaries have tried hard to get public spending down. They have waged war on waste, shed the burden of state industry, cut defence, slashed student grants, economised on pensions. But they have failed.

The reason is clear. The cushion in the nest was always eating up more. There has been an inexorable rise in what statisticians call cyclical social security spending, but which has now become permanent poverty relief. From 3.25 per cent of GDP in 1979-80, it climbed to 4.5 per cent at the height of the following boom in 1989-90. From about 5.7 per cent at the bottom of the 1981-82 recession, it has climbed to 6.4 per cent.

That realistic counsel of despair is therefore unrealistic. The only way to get the tax burden down permanently is to cut unemployment and poverty. Even low inflation, balanced budgets and free markets will not of themselves allow the tax burden to be cut. Old-style state spending does not work. If the private sector is not sustaining enough jobs that can finance a family, then business should be offered different signals, so that market forces deliver the right result. If tax cuts, and probably living standards, depend on that policy focus, the debate should be about what signals will be most effective at least start-up cost to the public purse. The party differences will be just as great but the prospect more hopeful: to cut taxes by ending mass unemployment.



The absorption of Macy's could mean closures and job losses

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Panting in Fulham

STRANGE things are happening in the southwest London suburb of Fulham. Not long after last week's hostage shoot-out, early risers were puzzled to spot two men running through the streets clad only in their underpants. Enquiries by the City Diary led to Mike Brennan, managing partner of a respected London headhunting firm, and aspirant politician to boot. Brennan, who runs Alexander Mann & Partners, stood for the Tory seat in Wentworth, South Yorkshire, in 1992 on a law and order

platform (appropriately, as it turns out). Challenged over the underpants incident, Brennan insists he was chasing a burglar. "I spotted him in my garden at 5.15am and chased him out into the street," he says. "My neighbour came to help. I admit I looked odd. We're not exactly bronzed Adonises." To make matters worse, Brennan's car had been stolen from outside his house a few days earlier. "The police rang to say they'd found it in Hackney, but by the time I got there it had been stolen again," he laments. "It was later found with a colourful Rastafarian woolly hat under the front seat, and my green wellies were missing." All this

makes Brennan a clear contender for this month's case of Laphroaig whisky.

### Roving eyes

A SUMPTUOUS car deserves a sumptuous setting for a launch, to go by Land Rover's spree for the new Range Rover. The company has moved into Cliveden, near Taplow, Buckinghamshire, for a month, while bussing in journalists from the world over for a preview. Cliveden, former home of the Astors, was the infamous backdrop to the Profumo affair. Not that Land Rover is expecting high jinks, though John Towers, Rover's chairman, was spotted

playing snooker into the small hours and sipping champagne with British hacks on the first night. The bleary PR team — on duty throughout the launch — have, however, seen some famous guests since they arrived. Richard Gere and wife Cindy Crawford were at the side of the pool once graced by Christine Keeler. Keeler was nude — but Gere and Crawford were suitably attired in swimwear. The new Range Rover goes on sale in October.

### Advice for PM

AVOID bright colours. For ties that is. The Guild of British Tie Makers says subtle colours are back in style — and

has resorted to rather unsubtle methods to get the message across. It is sending a selection of fashionable ties to about 160 TV newscasters, weathermen and sports presenters in the hope that viewers will be suitably indoctrinated. "We do this annually," says Colin Deas, chairman of the guild. "We're a TV-mad nation, and hope this may start a trend." A similar experiment with John Major was a total failure. "We sent him a load of ties and he started wearing one or two new ones," said Deas. "But now he's gone back to the same old pale blue with white dots." So what tie should we all be wearing? "More subtle colours," says Deas, "navy and red, perhaps, with a little gold around the edge." Yuki!

SMALL country businesses seeking extra cash should buy the latest Country Living, out this week, which has teamed up with Calor Gas to find the five country firms deemed to offer the most original products and services while supporting their local communities. The top prize is £6,000, £3,000 for second, and three further prizes of £1,000 each.

JON ASHWORTH

### CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.5415 (+0.0047)  
German mark 2.4387 (-0.0036)  
Exchange index 79.4 (Same)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2471.1 (+81.2)  
FT-SE 100 3167.5 (+84.9)  
New York Dow Jones 3747.02 (-17.48)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20521.70 (+72.31)

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.21	2.01
Austria Sch	18.13	16.68
Belgium Fr	53.34	48.94
Canada \$	2.234	2.074
Cyprus Cyp	0.778	0.725
Denmark Kr	10.19	9.38
Finland Mk	8.70	7.90
France Fr	8.79	8.09
Germany Dm	2.98	2.38
Greece Dr	330.00	355.00
Hong Kong \$	12.50	11.50
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Italy Lira	2525.00	2570.00
Japan Yen	169.00	152.00
Malta	0.810	0.655
Netherlands Gld	2.898	2.655
Norway Kr	11.28	10.43
Portugal Esc	259.00	240.50
S Africa Rd	REF.	5.50
Spain Ptas	206.00	194.00
Sweden Kr	12.46	11.58
Switzerland Fr	2.19	2.01
Turkey Lira	REF.	48565.0
USA \$	1.522	1.502

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

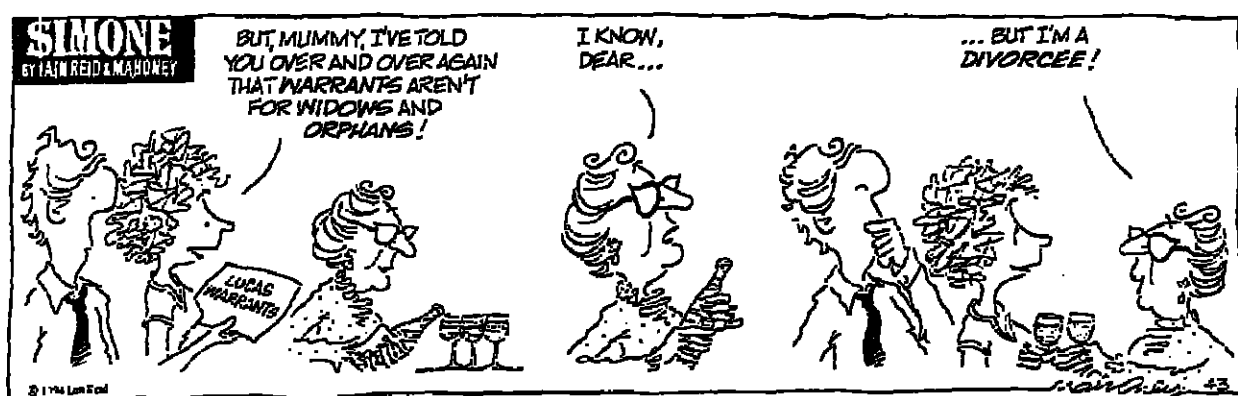
# SHARK WEEK

## TONIGHT

AT 4PM, 7PM AND 10PM

Shark Week takes you closer to these mysterious rulers of the deep, questioning the myths that surround them. Watch Shark Week, Sunday 7th to Saturday 13th August at 4pm, 7pm and 10pm every day, and you could win one of 5 fin-tastic holidays to Universal Studios Florida®, courtesy of Cosmo.

AVAILABLE ON CABLE AND SATELLITE.









## Bank accused of awarding staff average pay rises of 7%



George: rises of 2.5% the norm

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England should review its assumptions about what is happening to earnings amid evidence that the bulk of pay settlements have moved up to between 2.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent, according to Incomes Data Services, Britain's leading monitor of earnings trends.

IDS notes that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said late last month that pay rises of between 2 and 3 per cent were the norm and that employees should become accustomed to such levels of award. However, IDS

says that settlements were already edging above this level and that "actual increases for many individual employees are much higher, through incremental movement or merit pay on top of general awards". IDS also highlights the July pay review at the Bank. IDS says that some 2,000 staff at the Bank received a general pay award of 2.5 per cent but had also received 4.5 per cent in performance-related pay rises and promotion increases. This extra "pot" meant that Bank employees received an average salary rise of 7 per cent, the IDS asserts.

The IDS - which claims that all its figures are derived from infor-

mation provided by the Bank - argues that some 300 analysts and managers at the Bank received general increases of 1.7 per cent from March 1, their new pay review date. According to IDS, an additional 5 per cent of the payroll for this part of the workforce was budgeted for performance-related pay rises and promotions. This, the IDS calculates, brought the average salary increase up to 6.7 per cent.

The Bank of England disputes both sets of figures, saying that the "pots" for performance-related pay and promotions are not additional to the basic pay increases and do not add to the wage bill. A Bank official said that the performance

awards tended to redistribute earnings from the top of the Bank's pay structure towards the bottom. In the case of the 2,000 mainstream employees, the Bank said that the 7 per cent average wage rise figure reported by IDS is wrong and that the average wage increase is identical to the 2.5 per cent general pay award.

A Bank official said that the 2.5 per cent rise was fully financed by a reduction in staff and that the Bank therefore complies with the public pay policy imposed by the Government. This policy calls for a freeze on overall wage bills, with any wage rises to be financed by additional productivity.

IDS reports that the inflation rate has become much more of a floor for pay settlements than it was before the economy moved visibly out of recession. The latest evidence shows that just over 80 per cent of new pay deals give increases of 2.5 per cent or more, with fewer and fewer increases below this level.

Pay settlements and other forms of earnings, such as bonuses, are one of the inflation indicators closely watched by the Bank of England and reviewed in its quarterly Inflation Report.

In its latest report, last week, the Bank said that all broad sectors of the economy recorded stronger

earnings growth in the three months to May, in comparison with the fourth quarter of 1993, with much of that increase reflecting higher bonus payments.

Figures today suggest that consumer confidence remains fragile and that the Bank's recommendation last week of higher interest rates in the next few months is not helpful to business confidence. The Finance & Leasing Association reports reluctance among consumers to take on long-term borrowing, with personal loans down by 9 per cent in June, from May. Business borrowing was unchanged against a year ago, at £1.21 billion.

## Pru targeted in £1m union pension claim

BY ROBERT MILLER

GMB, the general union with 330,000 members, has written to 36 major pension providers, including Prudential, TSB and Pearl, demanding more than £1 million in compensation for members who were wrongly advised to opt out of company schemes and into personal pension plans.

John Edmonds, the GMB's general secretary, has also written twice to the Serious Fraud Office, calling for an investigation into pension mis-selling. The SFO, in its latest correspondence, states that it is still considering the matter. The GMB said that Lauro, the regulator for life companies, had asked the union for copies of all files relating to potential mis-selling cases.

The GMB's pensions helpline has received 900 calls from worried members who may have been wrongly advised to leave their company schemes in favour of personal pension plans. Bill Day, the union's pensions officer, said about a third of the callers had been given appropriate advice. Another third had received advice that was "dubious but not dreadfully bad" and these were probably not cases for compensation. "But in close on 300 of the cases, demonstrably bad advice was given. In some cases,

our members were advised to leave very good company and public sector schemes such as those for local government, NHS and civil service employees."

Mr Day added: "These pension companies have been allowed to get away with a giant rip-off. They have manipulated the most vulnerable and often lowest paid members of our community. The GMB is determined to ensure they are adequately compensated."

The union singled out Prudential, the UK's largest insurance company, as the "worst" culprit, with 17 cases. Mr Day said: "The Pru has publicly adopted a 'holier than thou' approach, but on the basis of our evidence it is clearly one of the worst offenders and should urgently review its files to ensure compensation for everyone wrongly advised."

A spokesman for Prudential, led by chief executive Mick Newmarch, said: "We have still heard nothing from the GMB about these cases. We have said all along that it is not our policy to advise active members of company schemes to opt out in favour of personal pensions. There may be some isolated cases where this in fact has happened. If this is so, we will investigate them."

Last month, it emerged from a leaked Lauro docu-

ment that the regulator was launching a Rule 7.13 (1) investigation into whether the Prudential's procedures for selling transfers into personal pensions were in breach of the rules and whether the practices posed a risk to investors.

The Pru commented: "This is not an official investigation. It has always been an informal inquiry."

The issue of pension transfers, opt-outs and possible compensation payments is being studied by the Securities and Investments Board, the City's principal watchdog. Andrew Large, the SIB's chairman, recently announced that publication of the long-awaited guidelines would be delayed until October.

According to the SIB, the delay was due to the unprecedented complexity and scope of the pensions review. When they are finally published, SIB's guidelines are expected to provide the basis on which compensation might be paid to those who have been wrongly advised to give up occupational and company pension schemes.

The pensions industry faces a potential compensation bill of up to £500 million for mis-selling. About 20 per cent of the 500,000 people who have transferred into personal pensions may have received incorrect advice.



Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential, which is singled out for criticism

## Post Office to rubber stamp sell-off plan

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Post Office will this week give official backing to government proposals to float off 51 per cent of Royal Mail and Parcelforce.

In their formal response to the consultative Green Paper, *The Future of Postal Services*, Post Office chiefs will argue that the alternative strategy, offering more commercial freedom within public ownership, is inadequate for the challenge they face.

Michael Heron, chairman, has concluded that only through a sell-off will the Post Office gain the funds it needs to meet a growing challenge from overseas post offices and private-sector parcel firms.

Despite an initial wish to see the entire business sold off, Post Office chiefs will now back government proposals to keep the post offices under public administration.

Most of Britain's 20,000 post offices are already privately owned under franchise arrangements. Mr Heron and Bill Cockburn, the chief executive, appear to have been reassured that the grant of wider powers to develop new services and invest in automation will enable the post office network to remain viable.

The Green Paper was effectively forced on Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, after the Cabinet rejected his call, earlier this year, for full-scale privatisation of the Post Office.

Partial privatisation emerged as the principal option, with the Government retaining a 49 per cent stake in Royal Mail and Parcelforce.

One of the surprises to have emerged from the Green Paper, and the Post Office review, is that the rights of consumers could be strengthened by partial privatisation.

Legal requirements are expected to be placed on the Post Office for the first time, obliging the organisation to maintain specified service standards, including collection points and frequencies.

The Post Office would receive an exclusive licence to carry low-price letters, provided it maintains a universal service at a universal price. Post Office officials now appear more than willing to submit to regulatory supervision on such issues as service standards, provided they are able to escape the dread hand of the Treasury, which is seen as encouraging high charges for the benefit of the Exchequer, which milks off most of the profits.

In exchange for private-sector freedom, Post Office directors are expected to offer a series of commitments to maintain various social elements of their service. In particular, they will promise to retain the department that replies to children's letters to Father Christmas. The goodwill generated by the service is thought to outweigh by far the cost factor.

The consultation period ends next month. This will enable Tim Eggar, the industry minister promoted in last month's government reshuffle, to draw up a White Paper for introduction in the next parliamentary session.

## Loewen set to counter bid for Great Southern

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE battle for Great Southern, the funeral services company fending off a near £100 million bid from Service Corporation International, is set to intensify. Canada's Loewen Group is poised to enter the fray.

Advisers to Great Southern and Loewen were locked in negotiations over the weekend after the Canadian company's confirmation on Friday that it was holding talks with Great Southern that could lead to an offer.

This indicates that SCI will be forced to raise its 680p-a-share offer, which values Great Southern at £99.1 million. Analysts believe the price could eventually exceed 750p. Before SCI's opening 680p bid, Great Southern's shares stood at 475p.

Loewen is favoured by the Field family, which controls 56 per cent of Great Southern, but it could still face difficulty securing control, because SCI holds a 29 per cent stake.

## Call for curb on gas price rises

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Gas Consumers Council is calling for measures to prevent sudden and unjustified price rises for household gas users when the domestic gas market is opened up to competition in 1998.

In a letter to Tim Eggar, the energy minister, James Cooper, chairman of the council, says prior approval should be required from Ofgas before any price increases are imposed. He insists it is possible to moderate any increases within the existing price-cap regime.

Mr Cooper's proposals are designed to quell fears that consumers furthest from gas landing points will face steep increases in fuel costs under a competitive regime. It is thought householders in the south-west of England could see the

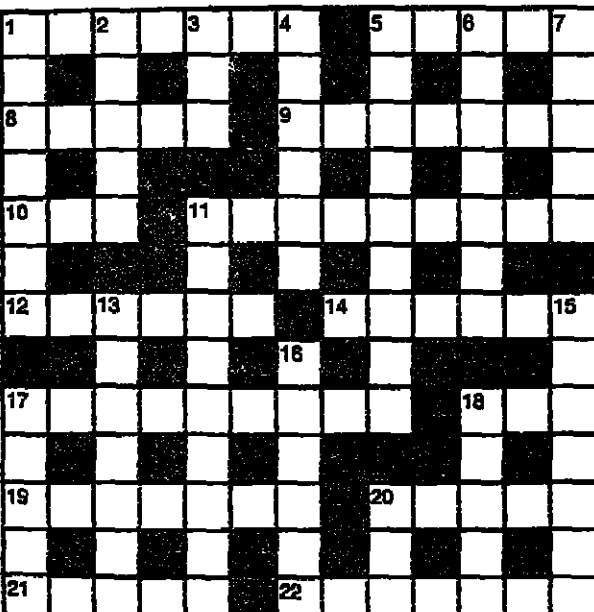
sharpest increases under government proposals to introduce a fully competitive gas regime by April 1998. Conservative MPs, facing a strong political challenge in the region from the Liberal Democrats, are already under pressure over rising water bills.

Mr Eggar has the task of introducing controversial Bills on gas market liberalisation and Post Office privatisation in the next parliamentary session. Speculation is rife that the Industry Department may be urged by government business managers to put domestic gas competition on the back burner. British Gas last night backed Mr Cooper's call for a period of transitional pricing, but insisted that certain price

changes would be necessary. The company does not want to become the supplier of last resort as rivals cherry-pick its most profitable customers.

Norman Blacker, managing director of BG's UK gas operations, said: "It's essential that all competitors share the responsibilities as well as the rewards."

Large untapped sources of coalbed methane gas in the South Wales coalfield are to be tested by Euron Oil, which is seeking approval for two exploration wells. The gas, once regarded as a safety hazard in closed coal mines in the area, is now thought to represent a potentially large resource. In America, coalbed gas is a growth area and accounts for 17 per cent of total gas reserves.

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 235

- ACROSS
- Mediterranean sailing-boat (7)
  - Lifeboat-launching crane (5)
  - Arrest drive new car carefully (3,2)
  - Dishonourable: information (3,4)
  - Yes (3)
  - Dad's Army (4,5)
  - Cooperative otherwise there's trouble (2,4)
  - Abjectly give way (4,2)
  - Have a good journey! (3,6)
  - One's child (3)
  - Feverish (7)
  - Quarrelling fight (5)
  - Inexperienced: environmentally aware (3)
  - Boy singers (7)
- DOWN
- Hotchpotch (7)
  - Weapon; pierce (boil) (5)
  - Trick; prisoner (3)
  - Self-assurance (6)
  - Reduce priority (10) (9)
  - Break (rule) (7)
  - Piano: engine adjusted (5)
  - Student of past (9)
  - Raise to peerage (7)
  - Perplex (7)
  - Applaud (6)
  - Make thoroughly confused (5)
  - Wrap for shoulders (5)
  - Automatic pass into next round (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 234

ACROSS: 1 Mr Right 5 Tumbid 8 So far 9 Watered 10 Easter Rising 12 Shorts 14 Overdo 17 Step on the gas 21 Close-up 22 Chase 23 Sweat 24 Pretend

DOWN: 1 Masseuse 2 Rufus 3 Garmant 4 Thwart 5 Titus 6 Mariner 7 Dodo 11 Hoghead 13 Outcome 15 Vehicle 16 Snap up 18 Priest 19 Grave 20 Accs

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Relistab - Ulrich, Berlin 1929. Black's pieces, excepting the queen, have all strangely retreated to the back rank. How did White break through this unusual defensive construction?

Solution, page 25

Raymond Keene, page 7

By Philip Howard

TREVALY

- A salted herring
- A drum beat
- Torture by pressing

UPANISHAD

- A poison tree
- A house on stilts
- A Sanskrit treatise

ANCONA

- A glass jug for communion wine
- A clover-leaf moulding
- An altar-piece

EULER

- A Guernsey bailiff
- Mathematical
- A Levantine storm wind

Answers on page 25

## Emma

is 14 years old  
and has an  
unenviable  
claim to  
fame...



At the age of ten, Emma was the youngest person in Britain to undergo total replacement operations for both of her hips after they were destroyed by Arthritis. Juvenile Chronic Arthritis is a painful, crippling disease which affects around 15,000 children in this country. Recent advances in research, however, mean that prospects are better than ever and by the time they reach adult life, some two thirds of children recover with little damage to their joints. Emma's hip replacements allow her to go to school and to lead as normal a life as possible.

As a charity we rely entirely on voluntary donations to fund our research, and legacies are a major source of our income. You can join us in the battle to find the cure for Arthritis by remembering us in your will. To learn more complete and return the coupon today.

For details of our Legacy Pack and How to Make a Will Leaflet, fill in the coupon and send it to:  
The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, FREEPOST,  
Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7BR

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

ARTHRTIS RESEARCH  
Fighting the Cause. Seeking the Cure.

REMEMBER - ARTHRITIS RESPECTS NOBODY